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Trade and Industry

28 November 1975

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

Each week we seek to spell out not just the initials but the news and policies of three Government Departments and a host of associated bodies. Extensive coverage is given to the activities of the DoI, the DoT and the DPCP – the Departments of Industry, Trade, and Prices and Consumer Protection. There are always several pages of news of the BOTB (British Overseas Trade Board), while our trade information includes announcements by the ECGD (Export Credits Guarantee Department). This week we have features on the new research station opened by the PO (Post Office) and on work by the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) on the carriage of dangerous air cargoes.

Trade and Industry

Incorporating the Board of Trade Journal

Volume 21. No. 9.

Pages 553 to 604. 28 November 1975.

Price 20p. Net subscription post inclusive, £15.34

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Advertisements: T. G. Scott & Son Ltd., 1 Clement's Inn, London WC2A 2ED. Tel: 01-242 6264 or 01-405 4743.

Subscriptions: HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1. 01-928 6977 ext. 472

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Home News

The Queen's Speech

Several references to forthcoming legislation affecting trade and industry were made in the Queen's Speech on the opening of Parliament on 19 November. The following are some extracts.

'My Government will play their full part in the European Economic Community, devoting particular attention to the achievement of a common approach to the world's political and economic problems.

'My Government will also maintain their full support of international efforts to restore economic activity, and to reduce inflation and imbalances of payments. They intend to ratify the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Financial Support Fund Agreement.

'My Government will continue to give the highest priority to the attack on inflation and unemployment. Success for the wide range of anti-inflation measures introduced in July is essential for the future health of our economy and our society. In particular, success in these measures is required for the achievement of a satisfactory level of productive investment and to assist in the reduction of the present unacceptable level of unemployment. It is also a necessary condition for the fulfilment of many of My Government's other economic and social objectives. The present price controls will continue to be vigorously enforced, and the programme of price display and unit pricing will be accelerated. A programme of price stabilisation of more essential goods will be introduced once cost increases decline. My Ministers will continue to work closely with the Trades Union Congress, the Confederation of British Industry and with the British people as a whole on a continuing programme to control domestic inflation and to prevent its resurgence.

'The National Enterprise Board and the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies will be major instruments in My Government's policy of industrial regeneration. My Government will also embark on a series of Planning Agreements with large companies in selected key sectors of industry, as an important step towards the identification and achievement of agreed national objectives. The Bill to bring the aircraft and shipbuilding industries into public ownership will be reintroduced early in the Session.

'Following their review of civil aviation, My Government will present proposals to implement the necessary policy changes.

'My Government will reintroduce legislation to remove the remaining unsatisfactory features of the Industrial Relations Act 1971.

'My Ministers will continue to encourage the development of industrial democracy in both public and private sectors. Both sides of industry will have full opportunity to express their views to the inquiry, which my Government have announced their intention to establish, to consider how industrial democracy in the private sector can best be extended.

'My Government will play their full part in the development and improvement of the Common Agricultural Policy and will continue to encourage the maximum economic production of food at home in the interests of producers and consumers.

'Legislation will be introduced to meet the United Kingdom's obligations under the Agreement on an International Energy Programme; to control energy supplies during any shortage; and to implement energy conservation policies.

'My Government will continue to seek to secure the orderly development of the United Kingdom's off-shore oil and gas resources in the interests of the nation. They intend to invite applications for further licences for the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas.'

How small data processing companies might increase exports

Further co-operation among small data processing companies in pursuing export business was suggested by Lord Beswick, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, when speaking to the Computer Services Association in London on 25 November.

The CSA represented a British industry whose growth over the past few years had been impressive, said Lord Beswick. Between 1971 and 1974 it grew by 96 per cent in terms of turnover and by 40 per cent in terms of manpower. There was every sign that, in the foreseeable future, an annual growth of the order of 30 per cent would be maintained.

'Although the larger companies in your industry can claim 30 per cent of their income from exports the small companies' foreign revenue averages only 10 per cent,' he said.

'This may not be surprising, but the structure of your industry is one in which there is a very large number of small companies whose total manpower resources considerably outweigh those of the top ten. While helping the leaders to increase their proportion of overseas business we would also like to encourage the specialised resources of the smaller companies.

'Many overseas projects are large; they often require a wide range of expertise and the customer is always concerned about the reliability of the contractor he chooses. These are three requirements which even to large companies pose problems but can make an impossible situation for the smaller unit.

'One possible solution, of which there are already some successful examples, is the consortium concept for particular projects. Pooling individual and specialised abilities to produce a large, more credible and more experienced group could make all the difference to a particular set of requirements. If your association can help in encouraging export growth by this or other means it will be doing a valuable job.'

Lord Beswick said that the Department was ready to help the industry in a number of ways. 'In the last financial year, the Department of Industry support for computer services totalled some £800,000 – mainly through the Advanced Computer Technology Project, the Software Products Scheme and the Development Contracts Scheme.

'The Computers, Systems and Electronics Requirements Board, set up two years ago to establish a customer-contractor relationship for Government support of technology, has expressed a special interest in software research and development and may be expected to be seeking ways of getting industry more closely involved in work at this level during the coming year.

'Central Government procurement policy,' continued Lord Beswick, 'secured some £4 million of business for the British software industry and other public service areas accounted for another £4 million. The public sector, therefore, was responsible for some 20 per cent of the income of the British software industry.'

Policyholders Protection Board under new Act

Colin North Smith, a senior partner in Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company, has been appointed chairman of the new Policyholders Protection Board by Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade. The five-member Board, plus three alternate members, has been set up under the Policyholders Protection Act, which passed through Parliament in the last session and received Royal Assent on 12 November.

The Act provides for the protection of people with insurance policies should their insurance company prove unable to meet its liabilities. The scheme will be financed by levies on the insurance industry, and administered by the new Board.

Mr. Smith is chairman of the Insurance Sub-Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Mr. Shore has appointed the other members of the board as follows:

Insurance company members: Aonghais Macdonald, of General Accident, immediate past chairman of the British Insurance Association;
Ian Isles, Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society;
Allan Grant, of Ecclesiastical Insurance Office.

Policyholder representative:
Max Wood, a member of the National Consumer Council and parliamentary secretary of the Co-operative Union until 1974.

The following alternate members have been appointed to perform the duties of the company members in their absence:

K. G. Addison, of Sun Alliance (for Mr. MacDonald)
D. H. Maitland of Save and Prosper (for Mr. Isles)
D. C. Bourdon of the Prudential (for Mr. Grant)

The company members and their alternates were appointed after consultation with representatives of authorised insurance companies, as required by the Act.

Provisions of the Policyholders Protection Act

Section 1 of the Act provides for the establishment of a statutory body, the Policyholders Protection Board, to administer the protection scheme. The Board has five members appointed by the Secretary of State for Trade, of whom at least three must be drawn from the management of insurance companies, and at least one must be qualified to represent the interests of policyholders. The Secretary of State may also appoint, in respect of each member of the Board, an alternate member to perform his duties as a member in his absence. The company members and their alternates have been appointed after consultation with representatives of authorised insurance companies, as required by the Act.

Policyholders are eligible for protection if they are insured under United Kingdom contracts effected by authorised insurance companies (Section 3 and 4). Policies with Lloyd's and friendly societies fall outside the scheme.

The board's duties arise when an insurance company goes into liquidation, provided that the petition for liquidation was presented after 29 October 1974, the date when the Government's intention to introduce legislation was announced (Section 5). Nation Life, which went into liquidation in July 1974, is not covered.

Where insurance is compulsory, Section 6 requires the Board to secure that the liabilities of a company in liquidation are met in full. In the case of insurance required by the Road Traffic Acts, however, the Motor Insurers' Bureau will in practice continue to ensure that liabilities are met.

In the case of general insurance other than compulsory insurance, Section 8 requires the Board to secure the payment of 90 per cent of any liability to individual policyholders. Claims by corporate policyholders and claims for unearned premiums are not covered; and marine, aviation and transport insurance business and reinsurance are excluded.

Sections 10, 11 and 12 deal with the Board's duties in relation to long-term (life) insurance. Reinsurance policies are excluded.

Section 10 requires the Board to secure the payment of 90 per cent of any amounts outstanding under long-term policies at the beginning of a liquidation.

Section 11 makes special provision for future benefits – that is, benefits provided for under long-term policies which have not fallen due to be paid before the beginning of the liquidation. Broadly, the Board is to secure continuity of insurance with benefits at 90 per cent, or if this proves impossible, to pay the policyholder a sum equivalent to 90 per cent of the value of his policy. The Board's duties in relation to long term policies are subject to the proviso in Section 12 that they may seek an independent actuary's advice as to whether certain benefits are excessive. In the light of that advice the Board may reduce or disregard those benefits in applying the 90 per cent guarantee.

Discretionary powers

If a company is in financial difficulties (that is, in provisional liquidation or in certain other similar circumstances specified in Section 16) the Board has powers to arrange for the continuance of the company's business. The exercise of these powers is subject to stringent conditions set out in Sections 16 and 17: existing shareholders must not benefit, nor must people who had any responsibility for or who may have profited from the circumstances giving rise to the company's financial difficulties; and the actual measures taken by the Board must not cost them more than the measures they would be required to take if the company went into liquidation, or than any measures which would enable the company's business to be continued with all liabilities and benefits reduced to 90 per cent.

The Board is also empowered to provide interim assistance to policyholders of companies in liquidation or financial difficulties. The Board's powers in relation to companies in financial difficulties only arise in relation to companies where the event denoting those difficulties occurred after 29 October 1974, the date of the first announcement of the scheme.

Finance

The Board's expenditure will be financed principally by levies on authorised insurance companies. Section 21 provides for separate levies for general and long-term business. The general business levy will be raised on companies' net UK premium income from all classes of general business except marine, aviation and transport insurance business and reinsurance. The long term business levy will be raised on companies' premium income from UK long-term policies effected after 31 December 1974. Neither levy may exceed 1 per cent of the premium income liable to the levy in any one year. The Board may only impose a levy to meet expenditure they have already incurred, or which they expect to incur within a year.

Sections 19 and 20 provide for levies on intermediaries who have earned substantial commission in respect of long-term business from a failed company.

The Board has a limited power to borrow money, but there is no provision for public funds to be made available.

Inquiries about the scheme should be addressed to the Secretariat, Policyholders Protection Board, Aldermary House, Queen Street, London EC4 (01-248 4477).

Clearance of merger proposal

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided, on the information at present before her, not to refer the proposed merger between Kaiser Aluminium and Chemical Corporation and Anglesey Aluminium Ltd. to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

Three new advance factories in east Wales...

The Welsh Industrial Estates Corporation has announced factories to be built at Aberbargoed, Abercarn and Cwmtillery.

Work on the new advance factory of 929m² at Aberbargoed is to begin soon. J. Lock-Necrews, Hills and Associates, Cardiff are the architects; quantity surveyors are E. C. Harris and Partners, Treforest.

The advance factory now in progress at Abercarn (Oakdale) is the fourth factory to be built in advance of demand in this area. Alex Robertson, Peter Francis and Partners, I. E. Symonds and Partners, all of Cardiff, are architects and quantity surveyors respectively.

The third factory is being built at Cwmtillery. It is the first advance factory to be built in this locality and covers 2,323m².

Architects are H. D. Watkins and Associates, Newport, and the quantity surveyors are E. C. Harris and Partners, Treforest.

The three factories should all be completed next summer.

...and in west Wales

Two new advance factories are being built at Aberystwyth and Fishguard.

The 934m² factory at Aberystwyth is the fourth factory to be built there in advance of demand. Architects are the Anthony Clark Partnership of Wrexham; quantity surveyors are E. C. Harris and Partners of Treforest. Completion should be late spring of next year.

The new advance factory at Fishguard is divided into two units of 465m² approximately. Completion is anticipated in the spring of 1976.

Architects are B. E. Minter, Milford Haven; quantity surveyors are G. A. Downie and Partners of Cardiff.

Applications for investment grant

The Department of Industry has accepted since 1 October 1975 applications for investment grant in respect of capital expenditure incurred in the period 1 April to 30 June 1975. Such applications have been payable from 1 October 1975.

The Department now announces that applications in respect of the following quarter 1 July to 30 September 1975 will be accepted from 1 January 1976 and that payment on such applications, after approval, will begin from that date.

Investment grant is payable on expenditure incurred after 26 October 1970 only where it arises under a contract entered into by that date. Applications should be made to the Department on the appropriate form, accompanied by form IG/32 (or form IG/33 for ships) and relevant evidence of contract.

Closing dates

The Department reminds applicants that, by virtue of the Investment Grant Termination (No. 5) Order 1975 and of the Direction made under it on 17 February 1975, no investment grant will be made in respect of expenditure incurred in the period 1 April to 30 June 1974 unless application on the appropriate form and accompanied by a report by an independent accountant is made to the Department of Industry before 1 January 1976. Applicants should ensure that they have duly completed the appropriate form and forwarded it to the reporting accountant in sufficient time to enable him to examine and report on it and for the documents to be received by one of the Grants Offices not later than 31 December 1975.

Applications relating to expenditure incurred during the following periods should be made by the dates specified.

Expenditure incurred	Date before which application must be made
1 July 1974-30 September 1974	1 April 1976
1 October 1974-31 December 1974	1 July 1976
1 January 1975-31 March 1975	1 October 1976

Firms contemplating applying for investment grants towards expenditure incurred on the production of prototypes must also comply with all the requirements as to the making of applications by specified terminal dates. Special considerations may affect this type of application and if firms foresee difficulty in meeting these requirements they should seek guidance from the appropriate office.

Guidance on the preparation of forms may be obtained from the appropriate Office. The addresses of the Offices are: Department of Industry, Regional Development Grants Office,

Queensway House,
West Precinct,
Town Centre,
Billingham,
Cleveland TS23 2NF
Tel. (0642) 553671
Telex 58608

St. Peter's House,
Stanley Precinct,
Bootle,
Merseyside L20 3LZ
Tel. 051-922 4030
Telex 627162

24/26 Newport Road,
Cardiff CF2 1SY
Tel. (0222) 42611
Telex 49538

Magnet House,
Waterloo Street,
Glasgow G2 7BT
Tel. 041-221 9833
Telex 77611

and Department of Industry, Investment Grants Office,

Room 2722,
Millbank Tower,
Millbank,
London SW1P 4QU
Tel. 01-211 5518
Telex 918829
(ships and computers only).

Successful small firms seminar in South Yorkshire

Over 150 representatives of small firms in South Yorkshire attended a seminar on 'The Small Firm – Realising its Potential' at the Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield, last week. The event was jointly organised by the South Yorkshire County Council and the Small Firms Information Centre, Leeds.

The seminar covered three main topics. At

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ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
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a session on finance, representatives of the Yorkshire and Midland banks and the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation discussed methods for raising capital. The Regional Industrial Director of the Department of Industry, A. R. M. Graham, gave details of the assistance available from the Government for new developments and expansion programmes.

At a management session, the manager of the Small Firms Management Centre at the Sheffield Polytechnic outlined methods of obtaining a better marketing policy, and two local businessmen discussed means by which financial management and control of small firms could be improved.

At a session on information and services, representatives of the Sheffield Business Library, the local Industrial Liaison Service, the Small Firms Information Centre and the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce gave details of the range of organisations which help and advise small firms.

John Bolton (right), who was chairman of the Committee of Inquiry on Small Firms, opened last week's small firms seminar in Sheffield. Seen with him are (from the left) the Hon. Neil Turner, director, Edward Turner and Associates, Sheffield, who chaired the management session; A. R. M. Graham, Regional Industrial Director, Department of Industry; and Councillor E. E. Jones, chairman, South Yorkshire County Council. Photo by courtesy of Sheffield *Morning Telegraph*.

Fourteen companies and organisations were represented at an exhibition in association with the seminar.

John Lister, manager of the Small Firms Information Centre at Leeds, said that the success of the event showed one way in which the centre, in collaboration with local organisations, could expand its role of helping the small business community.

Financial reconstruction and extended services for Giro

Measures designed to set Giro on a sound financial basis on which to develop its banking services and expand its business were contained in a Bill* introduced in the House of Commons on 24 November. The intention to take these steps was announced by the then Secretary of State for Industry to the House of Commons on 12 March 1975. A White Paper explaining the background and details of these measures was also published on 24 November.†

Financial reconstruction

The National Giro service opened in October 1968, and following a review in 1970/71, the Government of the day concluded that Giro should continue and that new targets would be set for the service. The following financial objectives were announced in March 1972:

1 to make a positive contribution to Post Office finances within a year of introducing new tariffs (July 1972) and
2 to cover its overheads, including depreciation and interest on both assets and losses within five years, ie by July 1977.

The first target was met in March 1973. The second was also achieved ahead of target, in 1974/75 which, says the White Paper, was due in no small part to favourable movements in the stock market. However, despite a progressive improvement in trading results over the last four years, Giro has been faced with an increasing burden of interest charges mainly attributable to the need to finance the losses it has sustained.

By the end of the last financial year, 1974/75, Giro's outstanding debt had amounted to £42.5 million, financing net assets of £9.1 million and an accumulated deficit of £33.4 million. The amount of the debt incurred to finance this deficit is such that the interest payable on it will continue for some years to exceed the trading profits; and so will add to the amount of debt to be serviced. While this remains so there is no prospect of Giro's achieving lasting viability for a long time to come. Accordingly the Government proposes that £16.7 million, ie half the past losses, should be written off. This would leave Giro with loans totalling £25.8 million required to finance the remaining £16.7 million of losses and net assets of some £9.1 million, a total which, in the Government's view, Giro should be able to service.

Public dividend capital

The White Paper explains that public dividend capital is appropriate for nationalised industries which are basically profitable but are subject to fluctuations in their financial results. It already forms part of the capital of both the British Steel Corporation and British Airways Board. The Government intends to convert £13 million, or half of Giro's indebtness remaining after the write-off of half its losses, into public dividend capital. This sum will be invested from the Consolidated Fund and consequential reduction will be made to the loans to the Post Office from the National Loans Fund. Dividends will be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

The reduction in Giro's liability to pay interest, as a result of write-off and the conversion of debt into public dividends capital, is expected to be of the order of £20 million over the five years, 1975/76 to 1979/80, says the White Paper.

Financial objective

Given access to the new types of business, described later, and the new capital structure, Giro will be placed on a firm footing and will be required to meet a new financial objective reflecting its new circumstances.

Giro accounts

In order to show up clearly the performance and financial situation of Giro, the Post Office will be required to publish separate Giro Profit and Loss accounts and Balance Sheets.

Wider banking services

The Government consider that Giro has been handicapped because it has not been able to offer a full range of normal banking services, and is therefore authorising, under existing legislation, the phased expansion of Giro's banking facilities to include the provision of personal loans (introduced on 2 June 1975) and personal overdrafts; and overdrafts for local authorities, nationalised industries and business customers, on terms that will offer fair competition to other lenders.

This will enable Giro to compete with the banks for the custom of people who would normally open a bank account and remove any obstacle to the more extended use of Giro by corporate customers. To the extent that Giro can attract weekly paid personal

* The Post Office (Banking Services) Bill.
† The Development of National Giro (Cmnd. 6344).

Plant for treating domestic sewage at the Rudha Mor base of Seaplatform Constructors Ltd. leaves Ardossan Harbour en route to Portavadie. The rotating disc plant, manufacturered by MacLeod and Miller (Engineers) Ltd., Glasgow, has low energy consumption.

RB211 engines can now be air freighted to remote locations in the under-floor cargo holds of passenger-carrying wide-bodied airliners, such as this British Airways TriStar. The engine is separated into two major sections, and is then packed, together with supporting equipment and tooling, on to air freight pallets of standard size. It can then be flown out and re-assembled for installation on an aircraft.

account holders, who might not otherwise open bank accounts, it will, says the White Paper, promote the socially desirable aim of spreading the banking habit more widely.

The Government has accepted in principle that Giro should be authorised to provide other banking services such as credit cards, cheque guarantee cards and bringing loans, subject to detailed discussions with the Government.

The expansion of Giro's services will be on a gradual basis and wherever it seems desirable, the Post Office will undertake a pilot scheme with a view to establishing whether to proceed to a permanent service. The Post Office will consider in consultation with the Government and monetary authorities the timing of introduction and the scope of the new facilities.

These facilities will be fully subject to the controls applied to banks generally. At present Giro is required to maintain 20 per cent liquidity, but as it develops its banking activities it is intended that it should become subject to the instruments of monetary policy on the same basis as other banks.

Notes

The Post Office already has certain powers to act as banker conferred by Section 7(1)(b) of the Post Office Act 1969. The powers are now to be provided generally.

The figures quoted in the fourth paragraph above represent an adjustment to the actual figures of £50.2 million and £16.8 million as published in the Post Office Accounts 1974/75. They exclude £7.7 million of borrowings made by Giro on behalf of the Remittance Services. Giro and Remittance Services together are a single business within the Post Office. The capital reconstruction relates only to Giro.

Scotland and inflation

Small groups pulling together add up to an important force in the struggle against inflation, said Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on 23 November in a speech to the General and Municipal Worker's Union day school in Glasgow. He continued:

'I think there is a general recognition throughout the world today that the overriding economic priority is to beat back inflation and keep it down; for, until we do, we shall be unable to regain a sustained path of economic growth and thereby generate new and secure employment. This is the basic message of Rambouillet.

'Our government, together with the other governments of the industrialised world, is engaged in the hard battle to conquer the twin evils of inflation and unemployment. Our task is not easy; but your decision to abide by the pay limit established by the national agreement in July is an important contribution. Though you may be small in numbers, it is each and every decision made by each and every group, however small or large that counts.

'The world has been locked in its deepest and longest recession since the 1930s. No nation, not even the most powerful and self-sufficient, has been able to escape. It is an irresponsibly fostered illusion that Scotland could be wholly insulated from this world situation. Even Norway, despite its low level of unemployment, has suffered a sharp drop in production. Production in the beginning of 1975 has fallen substantially in the OECD area as a whole. For Scotland, which is so dependent on world trade, this means fewer jobs and under-utilisation of capacity.

'Despite this savage recession, world inflation has persisted, and there are strong fears in countries that have managed to bring down their rate of inflation to single figures that economic recovery will see a return of double-digit inflation. Why is inflation so persistent?

'There are many explanations and many theories. One obvious one is the rapid increase in commodity costs. The quintupling of oil prices is perhaps the most dramatic but it was preceded by the trebling of grain prices, and prices of all the basic industrial metals other than copper have moved solidly upwards.

'The Economist dollar index of world commodity prices (excluding oil) rose by 170 per cent between mid-1969 and its peak in 1974. By the summer of 1975, when the fall appears to have been checked, it was appreciably below the peak but was still over twice as high as at the beginning of the period. Even the USA, which is self-sufficient in many areas, not least food, was unable to insulate itself from this hurricane of increased costs. Scotland may be a net exporter of livestock but is a major importer of grains and a net importer of industrial raw materials vital for its industries and employment. Argentina, a net exporter of food, has had no success in containing inflation and Norway's food prices are well above those of the EEC.

Business statistics seminar

'Top table' at a one-day seminar on business statistics held jointly by the Business Statistics Office and the Industrial Marketing Research Association at the Department of Industry headquarters in London on Monday. Left to right: Tony Ryder, Delta Metal Co. Ltd. and secretary of the Industrial Marketing Research Association; Martin Fessey, director of the Business Statistics Office; Laurie Waddams, BP Chemicals International Ltd.; and Barry Wakefield, Central Statistical Office. Mr. Wakefield presented a paper on the new Standard Industrial Classification, now being compiled by the Government Statistical Service, which will be closely linked to the classification of the EEC. Ian Mclean, of Imac Research, presented a paper on approaches to marketing the Business Statistics Office's statistical output. The proceedings of the seminar are to be published by the Industrial Marketing Research Association.

Home News continued

'There are many other factors causing a persistence of inflation, which afflict all countries in one way or another – eg the monopoly or oligopoly element in pricing and salary and wage bargaining, rising expectations, international monetary developments. Above all, in the UK, the upward trend of prices has also been accentuated by the lack of adequate investment by business firms in the modernisation and improvement of industry. Much of the overseas investment that has come to Scotland has come because of the concentrated UK market. England's large population has been a magnet for mobile international investment.

'If Europe and Japan are still tied to America and America cannot insulate herself from the economic trends of the world, it is difficult to see how Scotland can avoid the good and bad in the interdependence of world economies.'

Company inspectors' reports

The report of inspectors appointed to investigate the affairs of Bernard Russell Ltd. was published on 25 November. On 19 November 1970 the company was placed in voluntary liquidation. The inspectors, D. A. L. Smout and B. E. Basden, were appointed on 1 March 1971 under the provisions of Section 165(b) of the Companies Act 1948, as amended. Their report was submitted on 12 July 1973.

The report of inspectors appointed to investigate the affairs of Blanes Ltd. was also published on 25 November. The company's name was changed to Black Arrow Group Ltd. in March 1974. Mr. Smout, and Mr Basden were appointed on 25 June 1971 and their report was submitted on 30 December 1974.

Bread subsidy reduced

A reduction in the bread subsidy equivalent to about ½p on both large and small loaves will become effective from 30 November, Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, announced on 25 November, although the overall level of food subsidies generally would be maintained.

Replying to a Parliamentary Question from Arthur Palmer (Bristol North West), Mrs. Williams said:

'As the House knows, the White Paper on Public Expenditure (Cmnd. 5879) foreshadowed expenditure on food subsidies in the current financial year at £550 million and progressive reductions thereafter. Our latest estimates indicate that, at present rates of subsidy, expenditure is likely to exceed the £550 million provided for the current year. It will therefore be necessary to make an early reduction in the level of expenditure and I have decided to cut the bread subsidy from £5.16 per sack of flour 30 November. The reduction is equivalent to £4.06 per sack of flour with effect from to about ½p on both large and small loaves and is estimated to save some £5½ million in the current financial year. Following notifications to the Price Commission, the major baking companies are also proposing to make price increases of ½p with effect from 1 December, mainly to cover wage settlements. Taken together, these changes would mean that the price of the large loaf would be in general ½p higher than it was before the price was reduced by ½p on 20 October. I warned at the time that this reduction could only last for a very short period.'

New VAT publications

The November edition of VAT News, a quarterly publication issued by HM Customs and Excise, is now being distributed to all VAT registered traders. Among the items included are those dealing with:

Imports and exports
Information on changes in VAT entry procedures for imported goods from 1 January 1976 and gives details of new forms for use under the retail export schemes. Attention is drawn to special provisions under which goods sold to overseas visitors visitors can sometimes be zero-rated, if for some reason the retail export schemes are not appropriate. There is also guidance on the treatment of 'over-the-counter' export sales to yacht crews.

25 per cent rate of VAT
The application of the 25 per cent rate to parts of general use and to white spirit and other products used as paint thinners.

Failure to make VAT returns
The number of prosecutions arising from the failure by some traders to make VAT returns, and the total amount of fines imposed.

VAT Notices Nos. 703 (about exports) and 706 (mainly about partial exemption) have been brought up to date.

Price rise for British Standards

Price increases for British Standards will be introduced from 1 January 1976. The overall effect will be to raise sales prices by 15 per cent, although the cost of some standards will remain unchanged. The new prices will apply to all orders dated after 31 December 1975.

The British Standards Institution say that recent and projected substantial increases in postal charges, have forced them to bring forward this increase from 1 April, as originally intended, to 1 January. As the bulk of its sales operation is dependent on the postal service, and postal charges are included in the price, sharp increases in postage rates have a serious effect on operating costs.

BSI point out that subscribers receive a substantial discount on all purchases of standards. The discount was increased to 40 per cent earlier this year for all subscribers who have paid the new membership rates. BSI also urges buyers to bulk their orders wherever possible and avoid the minimum invoice charge of £2. By doing this they will keep down BSI's overheads so that prices can be held at the new levels as long as possible.

The new values for BSI Price Groups from 1 January 1976 are as follows:

Group	Price
0	0.30
1	1.15
2	0.75
3	1.50
4	2.00
5	2.40
6	3.10
7	4.00
8	5.80
9	7.50
10	9.20
11	11.00
12	12.50
13	15.00
14	20.00
15	30.00

Patent Office publications for industry

The Patent Office offers industry a wide range of publications. These include the Official Journal (Patents), the Trade Marks Journal, British Patent Specifications, Illustrated Abridgements of Patent Specifications, Reports of Patent, Design and Trade Mark Cases, and 50-year subject matter file lists of British Patent Specifications. Details of these and other publications may be obtained by post from Sale Branch, the Patent Office, Orpington, Kent, BR5 3RD or by personal application at the Public Sale Counter of the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London, WC2.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the date(s) specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
23 October 1975		
917,376	Messer Griesheim GmbH	Improvements in flame cutting machines
1,151,775	Rowen-Arc Ltd.	Resistance welding equipment
1,184,605	Rowen-Arc Ltd.	Improvements in mountings for welding guns
1,162,705	Wago Kontakttechnik GmbH	Electrical push-in coupling
1,169,124	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	Process for the stabilisation of developed photographic images
1,205,081	Ilford Ltd.	Colour photography
1,208,437	W. J. Furse and Co. Ltd.	Clip, eg for use in lightning protection systems
1,247,018	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Vehicles including means for interconnecting the body and chassis
1,369,049	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	A control mechanism for simultaneously controlling a plurality of strangler shutters in an internal combustion engine
1,281,628	Les Laboratoires Reunis Establissement	A process for perfuming and shaping soap, and apparatus for carrying out said process
1,284,152	Solray and Cie	Process for the treatment of crude products obtained in the production of adiponitribe by dimerisation
1,284,541	Bell and Howell Ltd.	Improvements in solid-state transducers
1,317,209	United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority	Improvements in or relating to hypodermic syringes
1,372,446	VEB Steremat Hermann Schlimm	Improvements in electro-erosion machine tools
28 October 1975		
1,005,044	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Safety-belt adjuster for passengers of vehicles
1,158,469	Messer Griesheim GmbH	Improvements in or relating to scarfing torches
1,285,680	Jack Francis Vaughen	Air-cushion-supported vehicles
1,316,586	Coal Industry (Patents) Ltd.	Vehicles for transport systems
1,344,149	Romano Chiapella	A movement pre-selection device for lifts, conveyors and the like
1,381,549	Ets. P. Ferbeck and Vincent	Improvements in shuttering systems for use in the construction of structures of concrete, cement or similar material
4 November 1975		
1,268,366	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Switching centre
1,271,279	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Permutation locks
1,296,601	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	A radar equipment for mounting on a road vehicle
1,328,917	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Telephone subscriber equipment
1,343,964	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to connectors
1,359,543	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Manufacture of a semiconductor device or integrated circuit
1,363,433	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Dual-purpose telecommunication system
1,278,177	International Standard Electric Corp.	Electromagnetic relay
1,279,549	International Standard Electric Corp.	A self-excited inverter
1,341,314	International Standard Electric Corp.	Telegraph or similar switching system
1,052,138	Regie Nationale des Usines Renault	Improvements in the method of manufacturing internal combustion engine cylinder heads
1,117,827	Regie Nationale des Usines Renault	Improvements in or relating to vehicle wheel mountings
1,148,239	Regie Nationale des Usines Renault	Improvements in bumpers for motor vehicles
1,234,818	Regie Nationale des Usines Renault	Improvements in transmission and final drive units
1,302,007	Sant' 'Andrea Novara officine Meccaniche E Fonderie S.p.A.	High attenuation drawing machine for the processing of discontinuous textile fibres
1,308,842	Sant' 'Andrea Novara officine Meccaniche E Fonderie S.p.A.	Improvements in or relating to bobbin winding apparatus
1,320,978	Sant' 'Andrea Novara officine Meccaniche E Fonderie S.p.A.	Improvements in or relating to textile machinery
1,332,788	Hawker Siddeley Dynamics Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to automatic test equipment
1,381,477	Hawker Siddeley Dynamics Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to speed regulating systems
1,174,937	Diamond H Controls Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to thermal control devices
1,183,137	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in or relating to post-combustion purifiers for internal combustion engines
1,256,799	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	Bis-(mercapto triazoles) and their use as antibronzing agents for photographic silver images
1,275,757	Entwicklungs – Und Forschungs-Anstalt	Process and apparatus for separating oil from emulsions of oil in water
6 November 1975		
985,475	James Dewhurst and Son (Clitheroe) Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to weaving scrim or like open-mesh materials
985,476	James Dewhurst and Son (Clitheroe) Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to weaving scrim or like open-mesh materials
1,100,726	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to telephone systems
1,170,714	Furukawa Denki Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha and Toko Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha	Takedown reel
1,203,099	Armitage Ware Ltd.	Improvements relating to water closet seat
1,228,375	Armitage Ware Ltd.	Improvements relating to sanitary ware
1,299,739	Armitage Ware Ltd.	Improvements relating to water taps
1,316,123	Armitage Ware Ltd.	Improvements relating to valves for controlling the flow of liquids
1,316,274	Armitage Ware Ltd.	Improvements relating to bath fittings
1,326,352	Armitage Ware Ltd.	Improvements relating to combination supply fittings
1,284,582	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research	Sustituted piperazinopyrimidinones
1,294,663	Fitzgerald Wakeling	Improvements in or relating to structures
1,339,885	H Lindley Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to emergency air supplies for mines
1,353,105	H Lindley Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to power-operated portable tools
1,369,950	H Lindley Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to power-operated tools
7 November 1975		
1,222,751	Communications Consultants Ltd.	Stabilised dc power supply
1,284,855	Carrozzeria Pininfarina SpA and Siem SpA	Motor vehicle headlight

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
1,293,508	Instituto di Ricerche Biomediche Antoine Marxer SpA	Manufacture of natural amino acid mixtures from protein materials
1,348,027	Carrozzeria Pininfarina Societa per Azioni	Improvements in or relating to electric energy distribution systems
1,360,408	Etudes et Bonneterie SA	Device for controlling the needles or knitting accessories of circular knitting machines
1,369,487	Paumellerie Electrique	Improvements in or relating to a pin for a hinge

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patents Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

Counter-inflation inquiries

From 24 November, telephone inquiries to the Special Information Unit about the counter-inflation policy should be directed to 01-839 6851 (five lines), and not to the numbers previously announced.

Written inquiries should be sent to a new address: The Special Information Unit, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PN.

Over 15,000 telephone inquiries from the public about the counter-inflation policy have been answered by the Unit since it was set up in July.

Government Sales

Ministry of Defence

9 December 1975 Miscellaneous stores

Location: Bristol Esso Hotel, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol

Auctioneers: Russell, Baldwin and Bright (Dept. L), 19/21 King Street, Hereford (tel. 0432 55441)

A quantity of surplus stores including machine tools, jib cranes, jacks, lifting gear, winches, generators, rectifiers, oscilloscopes, test benches and sets, 9,300 chairs, tables, dressing chests, wardrobes, bureaux and other furniture, crockery, cutlery and other household and kitchen items, clothing, blankets and textiles, Bassett and other aircraft spares, vehicles including Ford Transit 'buses, saloon and estate cars, minibuses, vans, Land Rovers and Bedford fire tenders, MT spares, electric and electronic spares and cable, 33 tons of steam coal, and a large collection of other miscellaneous stores.

18 December 1975 Miscellaneous stores

Location: Golden Lion Hotel, King Street, Stirling

Auctioneers: Dixon and Wallace (Dept. L), Bank Buildings, Graham Square, Glasgow G31 1AW (tel. 041-554 2447/8/9)

Service clothing which include denim and BD trousers, blouses, jackets and raincoats, etc. Carpets and rugs, bedspreads, mattresses, blankets and other scrap textiles. Electrical and electronic spares and assemblies, electric motors, ferrous and non-ferrous scrap, scrap batteries, MT spares, tyres, jacks, hand tools, safes, anchors, stop and wrist watches, binoculars, telescopes, bulkhead and wall clocks, paints, oils, etc., and photographic equipment. Four Scammell 10 and 20 ton recovery vehicles, three Leyland Hippo 10 ton 6 × 4 trucks, AEC 10 ton 6 × 4 tractor, Leyland 10 ton 6 × 6 recovery truck, four Land Rovers, Bedford 30 seater coach, Zwicky road sweeper, two Morris 1800 saloons and a Morris 1000 Traveller. Coles 10 ton mobile crane, Taylor Jumbo 3 ton mobile crane, Conveyancer 2,000 lb fork lift truck, Wingrove and Rodgers 4,000 lb fork lift truck, Churchill-Harrison-Keighly-Elliot-Kerry and Holbrook lathes, Blackhawk 20 ton pipe bending machine, Wicksteed hacksaw machine, Robinson plane iron blade sharpening machine, Allday and Onion sandstone grinder and a Jones and Shipman tool cutter grinder.

Catalogues for the above sales which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc., are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 10p (postal orders only).

Wembley Auction Sales 1975/76

2 December 1975

View Days:	Day preceding and morning of sale
Location:	Department of the Environment Property Services Agency Supplies Division Store India Pavilion Exhibition Grounds Wembley, Middx. Tel. 01-903 2508
Description of Goods:	Office and Miscellaneous Furniture Engineering, Electrical, Canteen, Domestic and Other Equipment
Auctioneers:	Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons and Cassell 52 Bow Lane London EC4M 9ET Tel. 01-248 7954
Catalogue:	Direct from the auctioneer price 10p each

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

of Surplus Government Furniture and Equipment at PSA Supplies Division Store, Bay 5, Ashton Vale Road, Bristol, Avon. BS3 2HJ.

On 12 December at 10.00 hrs.

Viewing from 09.00 hrs to 16.30 hrs on 9 December.

Catalogues available from the Auctioneers: Messrs. Stanley, Alder and Price, 7 St. Stephens Street, Bristol, Avon. BS1 1EG.

Publications

Welsh economic trends. Welsh Office. (Available from HMSO Cardiff. Annual. Price varies: No. 2 1975, £2.00. ISBN 0 11 7900524.) This is a new series of statistics prepared by the Welsh Office, the first issue being that for 1974. All statistics and histograms relate to Wales (including Monmouthshire) although figures relating to the United Kingdom are also given for purposes of comparison. The information given in this series is not as comprehensive or as detailed as that found in the *Digest of Welsh Statistics*, but it adequately provides general background information and comment on the Welsh economic scene. In this issue a number of tables contain figures for 1974 but the bulk of the information covers 1973 or earlier years. An overall summary precedes the actual statistics on population, regional income and expenditure, the working population, earnings and hours, household income and expenditure, industrial activity and capital and public expenditure. The statistical tables on the working population give employment figures by industry and by regions, and unemployment figures by industry, region, age and sex. Statistics on industrial activity include, among others, manufacturing establishments opened and in operation, consumption of fuel and energy by sector, and housing completions. There are numerous maps, charts, graphs, pie diagrams and appendixes. Also included are maps (called *Linmap*) produced by a computer based cartographic system developed by the Department of the Environment. These maps (based on ward and parish data from the 1971 Census of Population) show the percentage of the working population in each area engaged in seven major sectors, agriculture, mining, manufacture, construction, utilities and transport, distribution and services, and national and local government.

The aims and instruments of industrial policy: a comparative study. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (137 pages. Available from HMSO. 1975. £2.40. ISBN 9 24611365 7.) This publication, prepared by the industry committee of the OECD, attempts to clarify the concept of industrial policy in its present day context, by means of a systematic analysis of the main thrust of the industrial policies of OECD countries in recent years. The first chapter of the report contains a definition of industrial policy and explains the background to recent policy-making. Subsequent chapters discuss the framework for industrial policy-making, the impact of general economic policies on the climate for industrial activity and the social aspects of industrial policy. Separate chapters investigate the promotion, of industrial expansion and the promotion of technological innovation. Policies for promoting the efficiency of industrial management, policies for specific sectors, and policies concerning direct investment, export promotion and competition are also discussed. The primary source of material contained in the report was information gathered in the course of the examination of industrial policies of member countries in which the industry committee has been involved in recent years. This was supplemented by information arising out of the committee's studies of policies relating to special subject areas, such as regional development, multi-national enterprises, management education, and small and medium sized businesses. One unavoidable limitation faced by the committee in preparing the report was that of changes in policy frameworks of member countries, caused by such factors as changes in national goals and priorities, the need to adapt to a dynamic international economic environment and the efforts of member countries affiliated in regional groups, such as the European Economic Community, to co-ordinate and harmonise their policies. Owing to these limitations no attempt is made in this report to delineate the concept of industrial policy in terms of precise, relatively constant objectives or policy instruments.

The role of the patent system in the transfer of technology to developing countries: report prepared jointly by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organisation. (69 pages. Available from HMSO. 1975. £2.08. ISBN 0 11 903898 6). This report is designed to bring up to date a similar report prepared in 1965 by the Secretary General of the United Nations. Part 1 is a survey of the major characteristics of the patent system, covering national patent legislation, the international patent system, and safeguards against abuses of the patent monopoly in licensing agreements. Part 2 considers the impact of the international patent system of the economic advance of developing countries; and Part 3 summarises the findings on the preceding chapters, to serve as the context of a future revision of the system.

Patent law of the United Kingdom: texts, commentary and notes on practice by the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents. (420 pages. Sweet and Maxwell. 1975. £15. ISBN 0 421 20670 5). This is a revised edition of *Commentary on the Patents Acts 1949–1961*, published in a second edition in 1968. Like its predecessor, the book deals primarily with Patent Office proceedings, and is thus a day-to-day manual of reference, but it has now extended its scope to discuss more fully such matters as infringement. Each section of the Patents Act is printed in full, together with the Rules relating to that section, and is followed by a commentary on the meaning of the section, and notes on practice. In the notes the compilers, a committee of the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents, have given as much useful information as they have been able to discover. The texts of the Act and Rules incorporate all amendments made up to 1 January 1975. Rules relating to the Patents Appeal Tribunal and the Register of Patent Agents are included, together with items of relevant unrepealed pre-1949 legislation. Numerous references are given to cases reported in *Reports of patent, design and trade mark cases* and *Fleet Street patent law reports*. The coverage of cases relating to opposition is particularly detailed. References are also made to notices in the *Official Journal* (*Patents*), important notices being quoted in full. Lists are given of relevant papers read to the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents. A first supplement, bringing matters up to date to 1 January 1975, is issued with the book at no extra cost. This supplement includes short comments on the impact of EEC law on British patent law. Cumulative supplements will be issued annually, at prices to be announced.

Invisible barriers to invisible trade, by Brian Griffiths. (196 pages. Macmillan, for the Trade Policy Research Centre. 1975. £10.00. ISBN 333 185331). Just as non-tariff distortions of visible trade are assuming greater importance in international negotiations, so distortions of invisible trade are likely to receive greater attention in view of the increasingly important role this trade in services between countries is playing in the world economy. Previously little consideration has been given to the problems of restrictions on invisible trade as a whole and therefore this book is an important new contribution in this area. The author describes the various items included under invisibles, such as transport and tourist services, banking, insurance, royalties and earnings on foreign investments. This is followed by a detailed analysis of the various barriers to invisible trade which countries can erect, for example, restrictions on foreign competition and exchange control measures: there are also case studies of particular industries such as insurance. This analysis is supported by an illustrative list of the constraints imposed by various countries, which is based on a questionnaire sent to governments. The author then discusses the arguments put forward by national governments to defend the imposition of non-tariff barriers and continues with an examination of policy and measures in relation to invisible trade propounded by the OECD and others. He concludes that the best way to tackle the problem of non-tariff distortions of invisible trade would be for interested governments to draw up an international code on invisible and capital movements.

Technology News

New Post Office Research Centre

Europe's most advanced centre for telecommunications research, the £11 million Post Office complex at Martlesham Heath, Suffolk, was opened by The Queen on Friday, 21 November.

The new centre, when completed, will replace that at Dollis Hill, London – for 54 years the home of Post Office research.

With 20 million telephones, Britain has the world's third largest telephone system. At Martlesham, the Post Office has provided the modern scientific base for shaping and developing telephone and allied communications for the future.

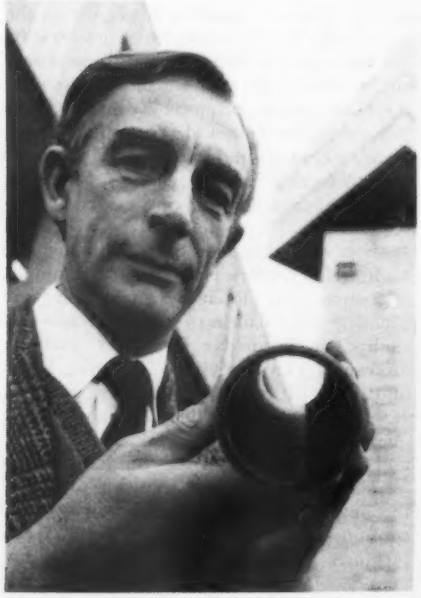
Post Office research has kept Britain in the forefront of world telecommunications, and has had a significant effect in keeping down telecommunications costs to customers. Every working day, Britain's telephone service grows by 4,500 telephones and research is aimed at improving existing services and extending the range.

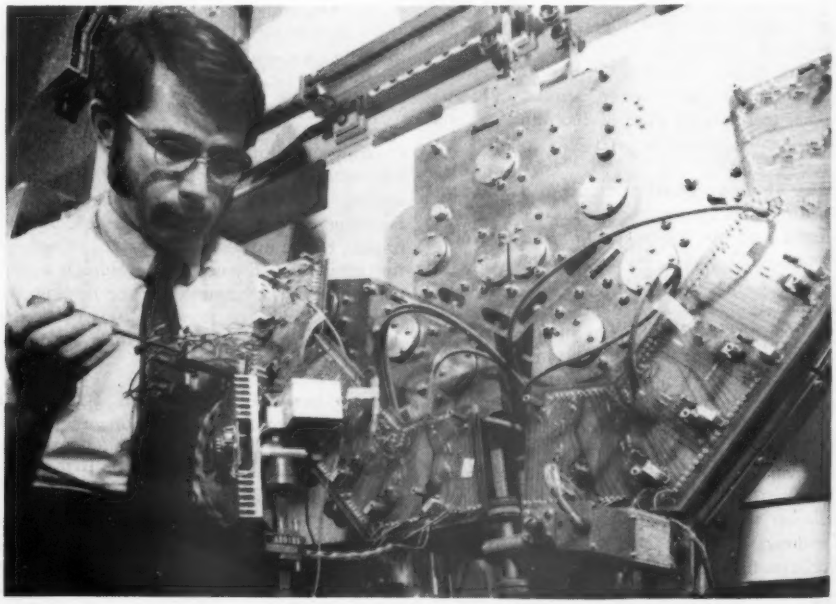
At Martlesham, Post Office scientists are looking at new ways of handling more calls and carrying more telex and data messages over Britain's trunk communication systems. These include a new method for sending thousands of messages along glass fibres no thicker than a human hair, and the waveguide, a spiral of fine copper wire which can carry many hundreds of thousands of messages along a tube no wider than a car exhaust pipe.

New services being studied include developments such as 'Viewdata', a system in which the home or office telephone is linked to a television set enabling the caller to telephone for a display of information to be flashed on his tv screen, and a telephone exchange of the future which will connect calls faster and offer customers a wider range of ancilliary services, such as the automatic transfer of calls from one telephone number to another; automatic alarm calls; and a signal to alert a customer already on the telephone that someone else is trying to call him.

The Post Office currently spends £27 million a year on research and development, of which about £10 million is spent on research; annual income is £1,400 million. All Post Office research is applied research closely linked to operational needs, and to ensure the fullest opportunity for commercial exploitation of the work, most is organised on a project basis. Each project is sponsored and reviewed by a Post Office user department, and continued expenditure on the project must be justified by its eventual value – either by earning revenue or in achieving economies.

A steerable tracking aerial used by the Post Office for studying new ways of sending more intercontinental phone calls by satellite. These methods are more vulnerable to the effects of the very heavy rain or snow so that precise measurements must be taken.





Left: Frank Marshall, one of the team who invented the waveguide, holding it against the background of the new laboratories. A tube like this may one day carry simultaneously 200 television channels, or 300,000 telephone calls, ten times as many as all the calls that can now be made at once from London to the rest of Britain. The tube is made from a spiral of fine copper wire. Right: A waveguide experiment has been set up between Martlesham and Wickham Market. The picture shows part of the Martlesham terminal equipment, which converts messages into a form for sending through the new transmission medium.

Peter Shore presents top tribology award

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, last week presented the Institution of Mechanical Engineers' highest award, the Gold Medal, to Professor Igor Kragel'skii of the Soviet Union for his internationally recognised contributions to the field of tribology.

In a speech to an audience which included the Soviet Tribology Delegation currently visiting Britain, Mr. Shore said:

'I have long taken an interest in the progress in the subject of tribology both at the national and international level, in view of the wide ranging implications of economic benefit in its application across a wide range of industries. This was recognised by the sponsoring role originally taken by the Ministry of Technology and later the Department of Industry in stimulating our own national activity in this area.

'Since then the subject has attracted increasing international attention and it was for this reason that some three years ago the Anglo-Soviet Joint Commission agreed that this was a potential area for co-operation which merited further consideration. From this followed the successful visit of the UK delegation to the Soviet Union led by Dr. Peter Jost in July 1974. The delegation was able to see the impressive effort which the Soviet Union is mounting in this field. It is therefore most appropriate that we are now receiving the return visit of the Soviet delegation to see the work of UK organisations and to explore further the possibility of further co-operation which will be to the mutual benefit of our two countries.

'I think that it is true to say that the growing co-operation in this particular field of applied science is something of a pioneering exercise between our two countries. For many years there have been Anglo-Soviet contacts in the field of pure science through the activities of the Royal Society and the British Council under the Cultural Agreement. Since 1968 when the Agreement for Co-operation in the fields of Applied Science and Technology was signed, since followed by the Long Term Agreement for the development of Economic, Scientific, Technological and Industrial Co-operation which I signed myself in May 1974, the areas for industrial and technological co-operation have been significantly expanded. But co-operation in tribology is a significant first initiative in applied science under any of our Anglo-Soviet Agreements.

'The value of the international fraternity of science has long been recognised and with industrial co-operation we are learning how to establish the mutual advantage of such co-operation on a commercial basis. But in some senses applied science presents the greatest difficulty because of its longer time scale and the identification of channels for mutually beneficial co-operation.

'I therefore greatly welcome the progress which has been made in the field of tribology and pay my own tribute to the enthusiasm and energy with which both the Soviet and the British delegations have displayed in developing these contacts.

Peter Shore presenting the Institution of Mechanical Engineers' award to Professor Igor Kragel'skii.

'The importance and the potential economic benefit of the widespread application of sound tribological technology was identified in reports produced by the Committee on Tribology of the Department of Industry, originally initiated by the Ministry of Technology. The importance of the subject has also been recognised by the introduction by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers of their medal award scheme for distinguished contributions in this field.

'The challenge of joint co-operation in applied science and this pioneering effort in the field of tribology is to ensure that the science is indeed applied and that the end result is the mutual commercial benefit which will eventually accrue. I know from discussions at the meetings of the Anglo-Soviet Joint Commission and more recently during my visit to Moscow in September this year that the Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, Deputy Prime Minister Kirillin shares my views on the importance of such a practical outcome.'

Accidents and the over sixties

Pedestrian accident statistics have shown that people 60 years old and over have an accident rate which is about three times that of other adults. In 1974 6,420 elderly pedestrians were killed or seriously injured on the roads of Great Britain.

Research has now started which could lead to a reduction in these figures. The Transport and Road Research Laboratory has awarded a £73,500 contract to Loughborough University of Technology, and the study, which should assist legislators in formulating safety policies, will take three years. It will be carried out by the University's Institute for Consumer Ergonomics and its Department of Transport Technology.

The aim is to collect information on the problems older people have in getting about and in particular in crossing roads. It will look at the role and scope of road safety education and will identify the environmental and road design features which could contribute to death and injury.

Street interviews will be conducted with elderly people at locations frequently used by them such as shopping areas, community centres, post offices, and doctors' surgeries. Additionally the behaviour of elderly pedestrians will be observed and recorded in road traffic situations. It is hoped that an indication of the dangers and difficulties, whether real or imaginary, which elderly people feel confront them can then be related to specific journey or environmental features.

TRRL are already well advanced with another study at Guildford, Surrey concerned with the mobility of elderly people. This forms part of a wider programme of work involving the mobility and access requirements of different sections of the community and focuses on the problems of personal requirements rather than vehicles.

Fuel from rubbish plant for Tyne and Wear

Tyne and Wear County Council Waste Disposal Committee last week recommended that the County Council should approve a project at Byker, Newcastle, costing approximately £1.5 million. The experimental project could provide fuel from rubbish reclamation plant.

It would be on the seven acre site designed for the Newcastle Incinerator at Walbrook Terrace next to the Newcastle City Council's district heating station for the Byker flats.

Provided that the Treasury give approval for a £500,000 grant, through the Department of the Environment, and the scheme goes ahead, initially some 300 tons of rubbish per day – nearly all of Newcastle's refuse – will be treated at the incinerator to produce 135 tons of fuel.

Each three tons of fuel produced is equivalent to approximately two tons of coal, according to American research, using 6,000 tons of rubbish a day. The experimental plant in the USA was jointly operated by St. Louis Municipality, the US Central and Federal Government and Union Electric Ltd.

In Tyne and Wear discussions have been held with several large fuel users within the area with a view to eventually extending the scheme to work at maximum economy by using greater quantities.

For several years Warren Spring Laboratory have carried out research into such a project with the intention of recovering and recycling ferrous metals and using the combustive element of the waste as fuel.

Parliament

Thursday, 20 November

References to Price Commission

Mr. Ioan Evans (Aberdare) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection had any proposal for a further special reference to the Price Commission.

Mrs. Williams replied: 'I am asking the Price Commission to examine and report on the prices charged by manufacturers, ophthalmic prescription manufacturers, and opticians for the supply of spectacle frames and lenses, and of contact lenses, otherwise than under the National Health Service.'

Friday, 21 November

Mr. James Johnson (Kingston upon Hull West) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he had reached a decision on the future of the Drypool Group, and Mr. John Prescott (Kingston upon Hull East) asked the Secretary of State if he would include Drypool Shipbuilding and Repairing Co. in the shipbuilding industry nationalisation Bill.

Mr. Varley replied: 'I have been greatly concerned to take the course which offers the best prospects of securing continuing employment for the men at Drypool; the financial assistance of £325,000 already provided by my Department has opened up the prospect of completing work on most of the ships on the present order book. I have been informed by the Receiver that Drypool has no commercial future as a group.

'After taking full account of the representations and advice that I have received, I have come to the conclusion that the best employment prospects would result from allowing the Receiver to negotiate with prospective private purchasers of the component parts, who would bring in new management and provide new work. The Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill which is published today excludes from its scope companies which have gone into receivership or liquidation before 21 November 1975.'

Citizens' Advice Bureaux

Mr. Michael Ward (Peterborough) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what further measures she proposes to assist Citizens' Advice Bureaux.

Mr. Williams said: 'I have now completed my discussions with the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux about the position of local bureaux in the light of the increasing demands on them and their importance in helping people with a wide range of consumer and other problems. In the context of the proposals for better consumer information in the 'Attack on Inflation' (Cmnd. 6151), I have decided to make temporary funds available through the National Association to assist bureaux suffering at present from a lack of locally available resources. Subject to Parliamentary approval of the requisite Estimates, I propose to make available for this purpose up to £200,000 this financial year and next, as an extension of my Department's existing grant for the development of the Citizens' Advice Bureau network.'

Dunsfold Aerodrome (accident)

Mr. David Howell (Guildford) asked for a statement about the incident at Dunsfold Aerodrome in which six people were killed.

Mr. Shore said: 'During take-off from Dunsfold Aerodrome at 4.15 p.m. yesterday, a Hawker Siddeley 125 Executive Jet, flown by Group Captain Cunningham, experienced a loss of engine power and subsequently crashed after over-running the end of the runway. It crossed the adjacent road, striking a car in the process, and killed all six of the car's occupants. I am sure that the House will join me in expressing sympathy to the families and relatives of those who were killed. The occupants of the aircraft, who included a Chinese delegation to the United Kingdom, escaped serious injury.

'It has been reported that a flock of birds flew into the area near the runway during the take-off. A team of investigators from the Accidents Investigation Branch has already started a preliminary investigation and will report to the Chief Inspector of Accidents in due course.'

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Lord Beswick
Gregor MacKenzie
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Gerald Kaufman

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Small Firms Information Centres

Centre	Telephone	Freefone area	Freefone	Telex
Birmingham	021-643 3344	West Midlands	4054	337919
Bristol	294546	South West	9910	449650
Cardiff	396116	Wales	1208	497515
Glasgow	041-248 6014	Scotland	846	779334
Leeds	445151	Yorks/Humberside	5361	557687
London	01-828 2384	London & South East	2079	917920
Luton	29215	Eastern	372	826115
Manchester	061-832 5282	North Western	6005	667952
Newcastle	25353	Northern	529	537429
Nottingham	49791	East Midlands	4062	377313

Britain

CAA advice on the carriage of dangerous goods as air cargo

Do you produce or handle goods that may become part of an air cargo and, if you do, are you absolutely sure that they are not potentially dangerous? Since the safety of flight crews, and in most cases of passengers too, is involved, the question is quite literally vital. But the answer may be far from obvious. Many inherently dangerous substances can be safely air freighted if *all* the proper safeguards are taken: some common household articles can reduce air safety if the need for these safeguards is not appreciated.

Air freight offers a valuable service to the community and its rapid expansion continues despite recent economic difficulties. Less happily, there have been a number of instances of dangerous goods being carried by air without full regard to essential safeguards: this is a trend that must be reversed if the highest standards of air safety are to be preserved, as they must. There is often a long chain of people and events between the origin of a consignment and its loading on to an aircraft and the integrity of air safety depends on the whole sequence of operations. This can obviously be prejudiced from the start if goods are wrongly or inadequately described.

Article 40 of the Air Navigation Order 1974 prohibits the carriage of dangerous goods in aircraft. However, it does empower the Civil Aviation Authority to give permission for their carriage and this permission, if granted, has almost invariably been given on condition that the Restricted Articles Regulations of the International Air Transport Association are complied with. In practice, it is the aircraft operator who seeks permission, sometimes for a particular consignment, but not uncommonly a general permission that will allow him to accept any cargo that fully complies with the law and the IATA Regulations. He must therefore be completely conversant with the Regulations and he can, and must, refuse any consignment of which he is doubtful. But, equally, he needs to know exactly what it is he is being asked to carry. It would scarcely be practical for him to verify the contents of every apparently innocuous package that he is offered. Equally the restricted classes include the explosive, flammable, oxidising, poisonous, radio-active, corrosive, biomedical and magnetic and it is not realistic to expect to find experts in these fields behind the cargo acceptance desks of an airline or of a forwarding agent. The latter must certainly be informed and vigilant but producers also must accept a large part of the responsibility for appreciating and identifying any hazardous characteristics of their goods and, if they are to be sent by air, for ensuring that they are properly documented, certificated, packed and labelled.

The law is not silent on this. Article 40 of the Air Navigation Order provides that goods shall not be loaded as air cargo unless the consignor has furnished the operator with particulars in writing of the nature of the goods and the danger to which they give rise, and the goods (or their container) are clearly marked to indicate that danger. It also makes it unlawful for any person to deliver or cause to be delivered for loading any goods which he knows or has reason to believe or suspect to be dangerous goods, the carriage of which is prohibited.

Where the manufacturer is also the consignor his responsibility is clear but even where this is not the case the need for the manufacturer to put a consignor in a position where he can fulfil his obligations under the law will readily be appreciated. Where obviously dangerous substances are produced, this should already be the case but there will be others in which it will be necessary to consider carefully whether any dangerous matter is contained or embodied in goods that are not self-evidently dangerous and which therefore come within the scope of the law. Magnetic material, which can affect navigation, is for example present in radio loudspeakers; mercury, highly corrosive to metal, is often present in the domestic thermometer.

Goods carried by air are often not accessible during flight and there are, in any case, some requirements peculiar to aviation and not present in other forms of transport. The subject is too complex, and too much may be at stake, to leave matters to intuitive or 'commonsense' judgements, much less to chance.

No one need lack guidance. The IATA Restricted Articles Regulations are revised and reissued each year: they set out in considerable detail which dangerous goods are or are not acceptable and, for those that are, the maximum quantities permissible in each package; they also prescribe documentation, labelling and packaging requirements for each of the various items. The current (18th) edition of these regulations can be ordered from International Aeradio Ltd., Hayes, Southall, Middlesex. If you do not need or cannot use a copy of your own, the aircraft operator or forwarding agent should be able to advise you and in cases of particular difficulty or doubt the Civil Aviation Authority (DASO), Shell Mex House, Strand, London WC2R 0DP (tel. 01-217 4196), will be pleased to help.

Services to exporters

The following Government offices provide services for UK exporters:

Headquarters

Export Services and Promotions Division
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757. Telex 886143 DTI EXPORT LDN

Regional

Scotland
Scottish Economic Planning Department
Industrial Development Division
314 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8XF
Tel. 041-248 2855. Telex 77583 SEPD GLASGOW

Inverness District Office
Caledonia House, 63/67 Academy Street, Inverness IV1 1LU
Tel. (0463) 30867

Wales
Welsh Office
(Industry Department)
Government Buildings, Gabalfa, Cardiff CF4 4YL
Tel. (0222) 62131. Telex 49267 INDUSTRY CARDIF

Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Office
Priestley House, 1 Park Row, Leeds LS1 5LF
Tel. (0532) 443171. Telex 557925/6 DTI LEEDS

Northern Regional Office
Wellbar House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4TR
Tel. (0632) 27575. Telex 53178 DTI NTYNE

Cumbria District Office
Town Hall, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9NP
Tel. (090-082) 3498/9. Telex 64173 DTI COCKERMOUTH

North-Western Regional Office
Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BA
Tel. 061-236 2171. Telex 667104 DTI MCHR

West-Midlands Regional Office
Ladywood House, Stephenson Street, Birmingham B2 4DT
Tel. 021-632 4111. Telex 337021 DTI BHAM

East-Midlands Regional Office
Cranbrook House, 47 Cranbrook Street, Nottingham NG1 1ES
Tel. (0602) 46121. Telex 37143 DTI NOTTM

South-Western Regional Office
The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2PB
Tel. (0272) 291071. Telex 44214 DTI BRISTOL

Northern Ireland Department of Commerce
Chichester House, 64 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JX
Tel. (0232) 34488. Telex 747025 GOVNI BELFAST

European Community News

Call for early economic recovery at tripartite conference

Agreement on the need for early economic recovery and improvement in employment was one of the results of discussions at the tripartite conference between EEC social affairs ministers and both sides of industry at Brussels on 18 November. The wide-ranging debate was based on a Commission paper analysing the economic and social situation in the Community.

Michael Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, who was representing the UK at an EEC meeting for the first time, said that the immediate questions were, firstly, how to get out of the present recession without falling into a worse one, and secondly, how to prevent a repetition of the current situation.

Referring to the signs of recovery in the US, he said there was also ground for satisfaction in the Rambouillet communique's acknowledgement of unemployment as the first priority for action. He pointed out, however, that if unemployment did not begin to come down in 1976, or if a next recession started from a higher level of unemployment, the consequences were incalculable.

He posed the question of whether the present recession partly stemmed from an unduly deflationary reaction by the Western world in general, and said that the causes of the present crisis required further analysis.

Control of imports

During an exchange on the control of imports, Denzil Davies, Minister of State at the Treasury, said that where, because of dumping or unfair competition, vital industries were subject to damage, the British Government would have to consider action to protect its industrial base. Britain would much prefer, however, to concentrate on means of getting world economies moving and stimulating world trade. Len Murray, General Secretary of the TUC, and Jack Jones, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, put the case for the imposition of selective restrictions on imports.

The conference concluded that the Commission should continue to analyse the situation with the help of social partners*, using existing Community institutions to bring forward proposals for Council decisions. It was agreed that a second three-way economic and social conference might be held during next year.

* Social partners include the representatives of trade unions and employers' organisations at EEC level.

ACP/EEC Interim Committee's exchange on trade relations

With the imminence of the ministerial conference of the group of ACP states, due to be held on 11 and 12 December in Blantyre, discussions at the 4th meeting of the ACP/EEC Interim Committee included a detailed exchange on trade relations between the two parties. The ACP/EEC Interim Committee has the dual task of preparing for the entry into force of the Lomé Convention and, at the same time, of ensuring that the interim arrangements are operating satisfactorily.

Representatives at the latest meeting on 17 November examined the import arrangements introduced by the ACP states, the provisions for Community imports of beef and veal and cut flowers, and a request from the ACP states concerning arrangements for the import of a quantity of rum from the Bahamas. The Committee agreed that these matters, as well as the presentation of the Lomé Convention to the GATT, would be discussed further at the next meeting of the ACP/EEC sub-committee on trade co-operation in December.

The meeting also included a discussion on possible future methods of improving consultations between the Community and ACP states on the Community's generalised preferences scheme.

Ministers adopt generalised preferences scheme for 1976

At their council meeting on 17 November, EEC finance ministers adopted the Community's 1976 generalised preferences scheme (GSP). A further notice about the scheme will be published shortly in *Trade and Industry*.

Among the subjects discussed by the finance ministers was the economic situation in the Community. After a discussion of the situation, ministers approved the annual report for 1976, prepared in accordance with the decision of February 1974 on the achievement of a high degree of convergence in the economic policies of Member States. They noted that various aspects of this report could serve as a useful basis for discussion of economic issues at the forthcoming European Council meeting in Rome, and drew on it in preparing for the tripartite conference (see above) which took place the following day between ministers for economic affairs and employment, the Commission and both sides of industry.

Ministers also agreed the Commission's proposed decision for the adoption of the 'basket' unit of account for most European Coal and Steel Community transactions. From 1 January, the 'basket' unit of account will apply to the calculation of levies under article 49 of the ECSC Treaty and the establishment of the operational budget, but will not yet be used for the issue of loans. The 'basket' unit is already in use for the operation of the European Development Fund and for accounting and lending purposes in the European Investment Bank.

Ministers had a further discussion on the question of floating of loans by Euratom for the purpose of making a Community contribution to the financing of nuclear power stations.

Government Publications in London

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn WC1V 6HB

Government welcomes draft Convention on Community patents

The UK Government hopes to be able to sign the European Community Patent Convention at the end of the final conference currently taking place in Luxembourg.

This was the theme of a speech given at the opening meeting of the Conference by Edward Armitage, the Comptroller General of the Patent Office.

He explained that, Her Majesty's Government was conscious they were meeting to agree a Convention which had been the subject of some difficult negotiations since the postponement of the Conference from its original date of May 1974.

'We are very much appreciative,' he said, 'of the constructive spirit in which Member States have collaborated in those negotiations in order to deal with the difficulties which the United Kingdom felt it necessary to overcome before the Convention would be ready for signature.

'The text of the draft Convention now before the Conference constitutes a package which, we believe, now meets the interests of all Member States in all important respects. We should very much regret it if that careful and laborious work were now to be undone.'

Mr. Armitage pointed out that the UK attached considerable importance to the removal of the obligatory nature of the Community patent and to the improvements in the provisions concerning contributory infringement and the arrangements for litigating Community patents. These changes were satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government, which had agreed to the reconvening of this conference in the belief that the substance of these changes would remain in the text finally adopted by this conference.

The Government had also made it clear that it attached importance to the proposal made by the French Government in connection with the so-called economic clauses of the Convention. Mr. Armitage explained that the UK was aware that the Commission disagreed with this proposal, but emphasised that the view of the Government on the essentials of this matter had not altered. They looked to the conference to adopt a satisfactory solution to the problem.

He went on, 'The Community Patent Convention is a further important stride forward in the development of industrial property in Western Europe and, provided there is a satisfactory outcome on the points I have mentioned, the United Kingdom's signature of this Convention may be expected at the end of the Conference.

European Patent Convention

'As now drafted the Convention offers, in a single patent covering the entire Common Market, an option of significant value to industry and inventors. However, this benefit is entirely dependent on the success of the European Patent Convention with which the Community Patent Convention is, for the United Kingdom and all its Community partners, inextricably linked.'

In this connection, Mr. Armitage reminded the conference of his statement at the opening plenary meeting of the Munich Conference in 1973. Early ratification by the United Kingdom of the European Patent Convention, and therefore of the Community Patent Convention, depended on there being no serious obstacles to full British participation in the operation of the European Patent Office. The Government was on the whole well satisfied with the progress that has been made in planning the European Patent Office. But there are still some major difficulties to be overcome and Mr. Armitage refered in particular to the problem of national staff quotas, the allocation to the British Patent Office of Examination work under Section IV(1) of the Protocol on Centralisation and the establishment of a European School in Munich.

He was glad that some of these questions were to be discussed further in the course of the Luxembourg conference, since a satisfactory resolution of these problems was essential to the United Kingdom.

Having come to this conference in the expectation that they would all be further discussed, he said he had heard that there was now some difficulty over the European School and that as yet negotiations of the supplementary protocol on European Schools was not on the conference agenda. He pointed out that a European School at Munich was an essential part of the package negotiated in good faith at Munich in 1973 and that this school was vital to the United Kingdom position in relation to both conventions. He hoped that the matter would be pursued with purpose in Brussels while the conference proceeded, so that the UK would be in a position to sign at the end of the conference.

Have you a good industrial news picture?

Pictures are published in *Trade and Industry* each week showing developments in British industry. If your company has introduced an interesting new product, if you have received an award, if you have developed a novel manufacturing process, if you have produced the biggest or smallest or heaviest or (you feel) the best designed product, you are welcome to send us a photograph with a short news story. Contributions should be sent promptly – while the subject is still newsworthy – to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Britain's key role in EEC and world energy strategy – Tony Benn

Speaking at a meeting of the Fuel Luncheon Club at the Connaught Rooms in London, on 18 November, Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said that Britain had a key role to play in the EEC and in the evolution of a world strategy for energy.

'The range of interests that are involved in energy policy is so wide and far-reaching', said Mr. Benn, 'that it would be helpful if we could find new and better ways of meeting to discuss the problems involved.

'The fuel industries, the industries supplying equipment, the consumers, the scientists and technologists and workers involved in the actual work; the impact of decisions upon whole communities; and the nation's need for security of supply and safety are essential parts of our central energy policy.

'When you add international political factors and the international financial implications arising from oil price changes and the new dimension of EEC energy policy, the complexity of decision-making becomes quite dazzling.'

Mr. Benn went on to explain that Britain's great merit lay in enormous strength in energy resources and experience with hundreds of years of coal reserves, gas from the North Sea, and oil coming on to give the country self-sufficiency by 1980. With massive experience now in nuclear power generation and great technical ability, Britain had a key role to play in the Community and in the evolution of a world strategy for energy which it was hoped would emerge from the forthcoming conference.

ECC information for businessmen: free booklet

EEC – Your Questions Answered, an 87-page booklet published by the EEC Information Unit, contains answers to businessmen's inquiries on a wide range of EEC subjects. These include trade with EFTA and other countries associated with the Community, customs procedures and documentation, tariffs, market information and non-tariff barriers to trade.

The booklet also provides basic information about the role of the Community institutions and has articles on the ECSC, Euratom and the European Investment Bank. The final section of the booklet is devoted to time-saving reference material including a glossary of abbreviations, lists of publications and 18 pages of useful addresses and contacts in Europe and the UK.

Copies are available, free of charge, from the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel.01-215 4301 (6 lines).

EEC Commissioner discusses protectionist pressures

In a speech to the New York National and Foreign Trade Council on 17 November, EEC Commissioner Finn Olav Gundelach said that there was a crucial distinction to be made between protectionist pressures and protectionist measures. The Commission was, however, 'very concerned' about trade developments in the USA during the past few months. 'We have been given some reason to fear,' he said, 'that in America at present the road that leads from the exercise of pressure to the implementation of protectionist measures is dangerously open. And this cannot but have the gravest implications for us in the Community in view of the amount of our trade with the United States that is being threatened by these pressures.'

Mr. Gundelach, who was standing in for Sir Christopher Soames as Commissioner responsible for external relations, had taken as the theme of his speech the debate on the future shape of the international economy and the attempts to pursue a new consensus in world economic affairs. He explained that one of the effects of the contraction of markets brought on by the recession was the rise of protectionist pressures, both in the United States and Europe.

Referring to the US Administration's recent decision to dismiss the complaints concerning the Community's exports of rolled steel to the US, Mr. Gundelach said that at that time over $4.5 billion worth of Community exports – approaching one-quarter of the value of total Community exports to the USA in 1974 – was the subject of complaint under the Trade Act. 'Even today,' he said, 'well over $3 billion worth of our trade with you is at risk. And all this is happening – paradoxically – at a time when the United States is enjoying a record surplus with the Community, amounting to more than $3 billion in the first six months of this year.'

However, Mr. Gundelach pointed out that with the notable exception of cheese earlier this year, the US Administration had not surrendered to these pressures. He added that their renewed support for the OECD Trade Pledge against 'beggar-my-neighbour protectionist policies' and their dismissal of the complaints concerning rolled steel 'afforded welcome evidence that the Administration is putting new vigour into its efforts to resist the pressures that have been building up.'

He explained that the moral that must be drawn is that in a period of exceptional economic difficulty governments everywhere must be especially active, not only in resisting protectionist pressures, but also in explaining to their citizens exactly why the protectionist soft option must be resisted.

'I might add that in the Commission we appreciate full well that this applies as much to ourselves in Europe as it does to the United States. That is why we have been taking a strong line over Sweden's recent decision to protect its shoe industry.'

OTAR helps exporters to EEC

If you export to EEC countries OTAR handouts on the following subjects may interest you:

- Circulation certificates
- Documentation – transit certificates
- Invoicing requirements
- Temporary suspensions of duty
- Preferential trading arrangements between third countries and the Community
- Labelling of products

Copies of these and other handouts can be obtained free of charge from the Department of Trade's OTAR section. OTAR helps exporters needing information about the tariff and other requirements of all overseas countries.

Telephone or write to:

Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR)
Export Services and Promotions Division

Department of Trade
Export House
50 Ludgate Hill
London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 408/439/482
(EEC general inquiries)

European Computing Services Association formed

After inaugural meetings in Brussels and Amsterdam, attended by representatives from national associations from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, the European Computing Services Association (ECSA) was formed in Paris on 13 November.

Objectives

Among ECSA's objectives are the promotion development, co-ordination and protection of the interests of national Associations and their members engaged in the computing services industry and to increase the market for computing services, and to represent to industry, commerce, governments and other organisations the interests and capabilities of the computing services industry.

For the first period of its activities, the association has elected Dr. A. M. C. Helmer of the Netherlands as President, Mr. P. N. W. Merrick of the United Kingdom as Vice President and Mr. J. H. Mutton of Belgium as Secretary/Treasurer.

This dual Honeywell Series 60 Level 66/60 computer system worth £2 million has just left Honeywell's Scottish factory at Newhouse, Lanarkshire (where it was manufactured) for Fiat's truck production plant in Turin. The system (seen here undergoing testing) is the largest yet shipped from Newhouse. Its main application will be integrated production control including production scheduling, production line loading, work-in-process control, control of material and real time queries on production status. The system will also be used in a time-sharing capacity for program debugging and other tasks.

New EC legislation

Common Agricultural Policy

The texts of the following Regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

Soya beans. Regulation (EEC) 2944/75 laying down detailed rules for the application of the special measures for soya beans for the marketing year 1975/76 (*Official Journal* L291, 11 November 1975).

Oils, fats and oilseeds: corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L291, 11 November 1975, contains the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 2616/75 (published in *Official Journal* L267, 16 October 1975) amending Regulation (EEC) 1204/72 laying down detailed rules for the application of the subsidy system for oil seeds:
Page 13, Article 2(2), 4th line:
for '– on the basis of impurities content . . .
read '– on the basis of moisture and impurities content . . .'

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 2952/75 on the sale at prices fixed in advance of certain boned beef held by the intervention agencies (*Official Journal* L293, 12 November 1975).
Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L278, 29 October 1975 contains the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 2630/75 (published in *Official Journal* L268, 17 October 1975) on the boning of beef bought in by the intervention agencies:
Page 17, Article 4(4)(2), second line:
for '– of the forequarter excluding . . .'
read '– of the whole boned forequarter excluding . . .'
Article 4(4)(2), third line:
for '– including boned cuts . . .'
read '– and of boned cuts . . .'

Imports from non-member states

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L289, 7 November 1975 contains the texts of the following Decisions:

Footwear. Decision 75/661/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply Community treatment to boys' and men's leather footwear falling within subheading ex 64.02 A of the Common Customs Tariff originating in Romania and in free circulation in the other Member States.

Electric motors. Decision 75/662/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply Community treatment to electric motors falling within heading No. ex 85.01 of the Common Customs Tariff. originating in Bulgaria and in free circulation in the other Member States.

Textiles. Decision 75/663/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply Community treatment to imports of printed woven fabrics of man-made fibres (discontinuous or waste) and printed woven fabrics of cotton of a weight not exceeding 130g/m² falling within subheading 56.07 ex A II or 55.09 ex A II of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in China and in free circulation in the other Member States.

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L290, 8 November 1975 contains the text of Decision 75/664/EEC authorising Italy not to apply Community treatment to woven cotton fabrics other than gauze or terry towelling and similar terry fabrics falling within heading ex 55.09 of the Common Customs Tariff originating in Korea, Pakistan or Taiwan and in free circulation in the other Member States.

Customs regulations

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L293, 12 November 1975, contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 2951/75 concerning the periods of grace referred to in Article 10(2) of Regulation (EEC) 803/68 on the valuation of goods for customs purposes. *Further information:* HM Customs and Excise, Valuation Division, Vintry House, Queen Street Place, London EC4 (tel 01-626 1515 ext. 2770).

Tariff quotas for lead and zinc 1975 – replenishment of Community reserves

In accordance with the EEC Council Regulations on the opening of duty free 'global' tariff quotas for unwrought lead (tariff heading 78.01 A II) and unwrought zinc (tariff heading 79.01 A) for 1975 (EEC No. 2421/74 and No. 2422/74 of 27 September 1974 – *Official Journal of the Communities* No. L261 of 27 September 1974) – Member States are required to hand back a certain proportion of any quota shares which are unused at 15 October 1975 to the Community reserves. Such amounts are subsequently available for other Member States who may need additional shares. The United Kingdom's initial shares of these quotas and available Community reserves were exhausted in March and February, respectively, but the UK is now able to claim on the replenished reserves. HM Customs is therefore considering claims for quota relief in the order that any importer enters eligible goods for home use and claims relief from duty, on and after 20 November 1975. Customs will require claimants to pay duty on deposit at the non-quota rate (or to give alternative security) until the allocation of the replenished quotas has been determined.

Any importer who has entered goods of these descriptions with the Customs on or after 20 November 1975 but who has not claimed the benefit of the quota should now do so by writing to HM Customs and Excise, Tariff Quota Registration Unit, Room 260, Kings Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3 7HE giving the following details:

Port or airport
Ship (aircraft) and date or warehouse
Entry no. and date
Quota Serial No. (see Part 11 of the tariff)
Weight of goods.

Claims must be received by HM Customs by 31 December 1975.

General inquiries about this notice should be made to General Division 2, Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Monthly Digest of Statistics

Prepared by the Central Statistical Office in collaboration with the Statistics Division of Government Departments, this digest is designed to provide industrialists and business executives with invaluable statistics relating to the economic situation in the United Kingdom. It contains a regular series of detailed statistics on a wide range of subjects which include the following: *Labour, Fuel and Power, External Trade, Wages and Prices, Industrial Production, Industrial Materials, Finance.*

Price **85p** (*by post* £1). Annual Subscription £12 including postage, and a copy of the Definitions of items and units employed in the Digest.

Government publications can be bought from the Government Bookshops in London (post orders to PO Box 569, SE1 9NH). Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, or through booksellers.

HMSO BOOKS

BOTB News

First regional export conference

The first of a series of export conferences in major centres throughout the country is to be held by the BOTB in Sheffield on 3 December.

Five BOTB members – Sir Frederick Catherwood (chairman), the Duke of Kent, Sir Jan Lewando, Lord Limerick and Hugh Neill – will participate, and 250 delegates will be shown case-studies demonstrating how local firms have exported profitably in spite of difficulties.

The delegates, from established exporting firms, will include shop-floor representatives as well as senior management.

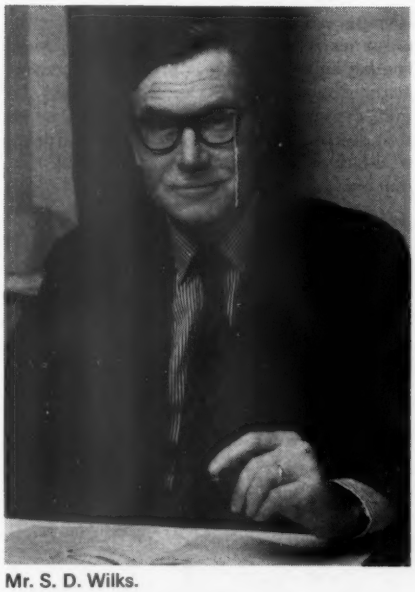
The aim of the conference, according to Sir Frederick, is to encourage more professional approach to exporting and to raise the average exporter's level of performance to that of the best. On the day before the conference the Duke of Kent and Sir Frederick will visit the case-study firms.

New BOTB chief executive

Mr. S. D. Wilks, an Under-Secretary in the Department of Trade, has been appointed Chief Executive of BOTB in succession to Mr. J. S. Rooke, who is retiring.

Mr. Wilks, who will take up his new appointment on 1 December, is at present the Under-Secretary in charge of the Civil Aviation Division in the Department which deals with airports and airport strategy.

At the Board of Trade, where he has spent the major part of his career, he held a number of posts, including Assistant Secretary responsible for aluminium smelter development and mineral policy generally. He also served as deputy chairman of the Tin Council for a time. In 1963 he was given responsibility for the supervision and inspection of the Trade Commission Service which then carried out export promotion activities in the Commonwealth, and for its amalgamation with the Diplomatic Service. From 1969 to 1972 he served as an Under-Secretary in the Export Credits Guarantee Department, dealing, among other things, with major export credits.



Mr. S. D. Wilks.

British Overseas Trade Advisory Council

Export opportunities and strategy were discussed by the British Overseas Trade Advisory Council at its meeting in London on 18 November. Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, emphasised the need to study changing market priorities, especially developments in the OPEC countries, and at home, to identify the bottlenecks which frustrated supply. He said that an important role of Government is to cultivate UK relationships with new markets.

The Council went on to consider the effectiveness of the services provided by the Government to assist British firms in tackling large projects – particularly performance bond guarantees and cost-escalation insurance available through the Export Credits Guarantee Department. The Secretary of State assured the meeting that the services would continue to be operated with the greatest possible flexibility.

In a debate about export performance Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman of the BOTB, said that in Europe especially we were competitive in price but were often unable to deliver in quick time or desired quantity. Members of the Council pointed out that existing capacity in British industry was under-utilised, and there was need to create the right climate for new investment. Sir Frederick agreed that further attention should be paid, probably by way of Chambers of Commerce and Export Clubs, to the special needs of smaller companies able and willing to export.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

UK trade with Arab markets could top £1.5 billion

Speaking at a conference on 17 November in London on 'Winning Business in Arab Markets', John Caines, Middle East Under-Secretary at the Department of Trade, drew attention to the range of Government services available to exporters.

Mr. Caines explained the work which is done by his own Division to create a framework for trade; the export services provided by the British Overseas Trade Board; and the assistance with the financing of export business offered by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

In each of these fields, he said, the Government has taken important steps to tailor its services to meet the needs of the important and rapidly growing Arab markets of the Middle East.

He continued: 'Already 7½ per cent of all UK exports this year have gone to the Arab world as against a mere 4 per cent as little as two years ago. Total deliveries to Arab markets have trebled since 1973 and this year may well top the £1½ billion mark.

'As to our competitors, there are signs that this year we have done better than them. No other major industrialised country exporting to OPEC markets had the same growth in its trade as the UK had for the first half of 1975 as against the first half of 1974 – 120 per cent.'

Increased prospects for British capital goods in Japan

'The long awaited turn around in British exports to Japan appears to be in progress,' said the Earl of Limerick a member of the British Overseas Trade Board and chairman of a seminar, Japan: the Capital Goods Market, held at the Confederation of British Industry in London on 20 November.

The audience of over 70 businessmen heard that British exports to Japan rose by 19 per cent in October 1975 compared with the same month in 1974. This increase, following a rise of 8 per cent in British exports to Japan in September, is an encouraging indication of the opportunities which exist for British exporters.

Japan's blueprint

Speakers at the seminar included Mr. C. Tsukuda, director of the Industrial Structure Division of the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry. He noted that although the Japanese fixed investment market had been shrinking during the recession its potential for growth was enormous.

Mr. Tsukuda described Japan's blueprint for industrial development in the next decade and said that government and business in Japan are planning an extension of knowledge intensive and high technology industry. He said that if Britain maintained her reputation for high technology and inventiveness there should be good opportunities for British manufacturers of capital equipment, new processes and systems. As examples, he mentioned environmental control, data processing, urban redevelopment and automation.

Delivery promises

Mr. Tsukuda stressed that British exporters must keep abreast of the latest developments and pay special attention to maintaining delivery promises. Mr. G. C. Nichols, chairman of Rotaprint Ltd., presented a case study of successful exporting to Japan. Another speaker, Mr. I. Takashima general manager of the London office of Kyokuto Boeki, emphasised that British exporters must make themselves aware of the special requirements of the Japanese market.

The seminar was organised by the Japan British Trade Group which was set up in February 1974 to act as a forum for discussion of trade matters between the two countries, to help provide a better understanding of each other's markets and business methods and so lead to improved trading relations. The Group consists of members of the British Overseas Trade Board, the Japanese Embassy, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, the Japan Association, the Japan External Trade Organisation, the London Chamber of Commerce and the CBI.

Valued relationship

Addressing the seminar during lunch, Tadao Kato, the Japanese Ambassador in London, pointed out that Japan 'greatly values her present-day close relationship with Britain, for we have much in common both as traders and as industrialists.'

He explained: 'You are studying capital goods exports to Japan at a good moment, for my Government has decided to take the reflationary step of pumping $7,000 million into the economy to be spent on public works, housing, assisting small and medium-size enterprises, providing employment incentives, and so on.' He went on 'if conditions improve on the Japanese domestic scene – and we expect the economy to grow 2.2 per cent in real terms this fiscal year, or 6.2 per cent if we take the second half of the fiscal year alone – then the benefits will spin off among our imports of consumer and capital goods.'

Mr. Kato added that 'Britain's current share of Japanese imports, under 2 per cent still, is not nearly enough for a nation with all your trading know-how and with so much support at the disposal of your exporters.' Finally, he said, 'every extra million pounds worth that you manage to sell to Japan will bring a balanced two-way trade between us that much nearer.'

The Earl of Limerick (centre) a member of the British Overseas Trade Board was chairman of a seminar 'Japan: the Capital Goods Market' held at the Confederation of British Industry in London on 20 November. Tadao Kato (left) is the Japanese Ambassador in London, with (right) J. I. (Hamish) McGhie, (head of the Exports to Japan Unit).

Visit by British Overseas Commercial Officer

The following Overseas Commercial Officer is expected to be in this country shortly, when he will be available for discussions.

Zaire

T. E. Martin, First Secretary (Commercial) in Kinshasa since October 1973.

Available: March 1976

British firms and organisations, other than those in Northern Ireland and in the areas covered by the Department of Trade Offices for the Eastern Region and the London and South Eastern Region, who wish to meet the officer to discuss specific export problems are asked to write for appointment to the appropriate Department of Industry Regional Director (Exports) stating the nature of the problem and commodities involved. Those firms and organisations in the London-based Regions mentioned above (together with those in other Regions who would prefer, or who would be prepared if necessary to meet the officer for an interview in London) should write to Tours Section, Overseas Visitors Bureau, Department of Trade, Room G60, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. Firms and organisations who wish to meet the officer in Northern Ireland should contact the Export Branch of the Department of Commerce, Belfast.

Because Commercial Officers often have only limited time at their disposal it may not always be possible to fit everyone in. Where it is possible, firms are reminded that the Export Services and Promotion Division of the Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, who are in close touch with all Overseas Commercial Officers can very often supply advice, or the information that applicants hoped to obtain at the interview. Outside London the Regional Offices of the Department of Industry or, in Northern Ireland, the Department of Commerce Belfast, can also help.

Five British-made bungalows have been flown from Stansted to Kano airport by 'Skymonster' to meet the urgent housing requirements of UK staff working in Nigeria. The bungalows, manufactured by Youngman System Building Ltd., took to the air to avoid the delays being experienced at Nigerian ports. To minimise the number of flights the Guppy Skymonster, operated by Trans Meridian Air Cargo Ltd., was selected for the transportation. The bungalows, which are to be used by staff working for the Savannah Sugar Co., were ordered by the Commonwealth Development Corporation as managing agents. Modifications have been made to the standard building sections to suit the climatic conditions. Each two-bedroom unit has a floor area of over 800 sq. ft and will be insulated and air conditioned and incorporate fly screens, overhanging eaves to provide sun-shade and a white Butyl solar-reflective roof covering.

Orders worth £200,000 in two days at Interstoff

British companies had taken orders worth more than £200,000 by the end of the second day at the 34th International Textiles for Clothing Exhibition (Interstoff) in Frankfurt. They were exhibiting in a joint venture sponsored by the BOTB and the National Wool Textile Export Corporation from 18-21 November.

Tootal Fabrics of Manchester expect their business at Interstoff to be worth in the region of £300,000-£400,000. Individual orders included 12,000m of prints and voiles worth around £12,000 from Australia, a £7,000 order from Japan, £6,000-worth from Denmark and another £6,000-worth from South Africa.

Nylo-Carp Ltd. of Chichester, Sussex, manufacturers of simulated fur fabrics, took orders worth more than £100,000 from Denmark, Germany and France. A first-time exhibitior at Interstoff, Tescan, a subsidiary of Clark Son and Morland Ltd. of Glastonbury, Somerset, expect around £30,000-worth of business from two overseas buyers.

The novelty knitted fabrics of Jonathon Thorpe Ltd. of Huddersfield, were attracting strong interest from overseas buyers and the company expect total orders from Interstoff to be worth £100,000. On the second day of the exhibition, Walker and Rice Ltd. of London, took an order for their printed cottons from South Africa worth £35,000 and an order from a Syrian buyer for £50,000-worth of fur fabric.

Armitage and Rigby Ltd. of Warrington were showing cotton and man-made fabrics, woollens, denims and knitted fabrics at Interstoff this year. Early in the exhibition they had taken one order for 10,000m and are anticipating another large order for 300,000m.

Business was brisk too on the stand of Kentex, Knutsford, Cheshire, who produce heat transfer printed papers for use on all kinds of man-made fibres. The company has built up its exports to Eastern Europe alone from 2000,000m in 1974 to an expected 3 million metres (worth around £300,000) in 1976, an increase which they attribute to their participation at Interstoff.

C. and J. Hirst of Longwood, Huddersfield, received inquiries worth a potential £100,000 at the 34th International Textiles for Clothing Exhibition (Interstoff) in Frankfurt between 18-21 November.

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news.

Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Exhibitions and Fairs

Potential orders at Munich Computer Fair exceed £1.3m

From N. U. Rothnie, Vice-Consul (Commercial), British Consulate-General, Munich: Fourteen British firms exhibiting at the 3rd international congress and exhibition of computer systems and their applications (Systems '75) wrote potential business in excess of £1.3 million during the five days of the event – and so handsomely justified their participation in the joint venture stand sponsored by the Business Equipment Trade Association and the British Overseas Trade Board.

Held in the Munich Fair Grounds from 27-31 October, Systems '75 attracted 244 direct exhibitors from 12 countries and over 12,000 visitors from 35 different countries, thus reasonably qualifying it's claim to be an acknowledged and accepted international event in the field of EDP.

Many of the UK exhibitors chose Systems '75 to show products for the first time outside the UK, and their confidence in the willingness of the international market to accept new technology was amply rewarded by the nature of interest shown.

The emphasis at Systems '75 was on peripheral, intelligent terminals, software and the increasingly ubiquitous mini-computer. This product range underlines the structural changes which are presently taking place in the international DP market, namely: a trend away from the large general purpose type of equipment to application-orientated systems, based on the increasingly powerful mini-computer. Industry is striving to keep costs down and efficiency up, and the interest shown at Systems '75 indicates that the days of prestige universal computer installations have given way to a sober assessment of total necessary DP inhouse requirement, rather than a mythical possible capability. Certainly in increasingly cost-anxious Western Europe a lot of thought and money is being expended in this direction, and the UK computer industry seems well placed to take advantage of what could prove to be a new boom in data-processing equipment.

Of individual exhibitors on the joint venture stand, the Information Equipment Group of Ferranti Ltd. reported that as a direct result of participation at Systems '75 they expect to sign business to the value of at least £200,000 before the end of 1975. Modular Technology, who were showing their mini-modem, which recently received German PPT approval, took orders in excess of DM60,000 during the show, whilst ICL reported great interest in their 7502 terminal. This was directly linked to a customer's 2903 computer during the exhibition and demonstrated a complex book-keeping programme.

On the software side, Northern Software expressed satisfaction at the degree of interest shown in their accounting package programs, and the Computer Aided Design Centre were overwhelmed with inquiries regarding their 'Gino F' computer graphics package.

The success of both the joint venture stand, as well as other independent UK exhibitors at Systems '75, is indicative of the high standard of British technology in the high technology data-processing field. It is also indicative of the determination of forward-looking British companies to earn and retain a share of the lucrative German and European EDP market. An example of how lucrative, is illustrated by the fact that the total West German budget for EDP hardware and software in 1974 was in the region of £1.34 billion, or three times the magnitude of the total UK EDP market.

With free trading entry to that size of market, which is right on our doorstep as it were, it would be a courageous firm who chose to ignore the inherent prospects and potential profits which such a market holds. Certainly those British firms at Systems '75 have no cause to regret their participation and were only surprised that there was not a great representation of British computer know-how at the exhibition.

For those companies who missed out this time, the next Systems takes place in 1977 and I strongly recommend participation to all who have not yet ventured into the largest EDP market outside the USA.

Further details regarding Systems '77 can be obtained in due course from the Fairs and Promotions Branch of the Department of Trade.

British monarchy parade biggest attraction at Charleston

From Patricia Anderson, British Vice-Consul (Commercial), Cleveland: From 27 October to 8 November, the Diamond, Charleston's leading department store, welcomed Britain to the city in a store-wide promotion. It was launched with the support of the British Overseas Trade Board and the co-operation of British Airways and the British Travel Association who offered a draw for a one-week 'theatre trip' for two to London.

The store's exterior was bedecked with Union flags and gay inside with flags and banners. The city's largest bank, the Kanawha Valley Bank, also joined in the festivities by decorating its main floor and gallery with similar regalia, as did the adjacent Daniel Boone Hotel.

Among the items loaned by the Department of Trade were the Crown Jewel replicas, which were on show in one of the store's main street windows and proved a great attraction.

British merchandise on sale included men's, ladies' and children's ready-to-wear clothing, china and earthenware, glass, brass and pewter, 'pub' mirrors, silverware, men's and ladies' accessories/small leather goods, and antique reproduction furniture.

The store described the promotion as an unqualified success and well in excess of their expectations. In-store traffic had increased to Christmas-like proportions and sales during the period has risen 18-20 per cent. British merchandise had sold extremely well, as a result of which repeat orders would be placed for almost all categories.

The Diamond ushered in the event with a pre-opening party in the store on Sunday evening, 26 October. Richard F. Gash, Acting Consul-General, and his wife, were the guests of honour.

British personalities appearing in store included Alfie Howard, Town Crier of Lambeth, who proved as popular as ever; John Milson, builder of ships in bottles, who attracted a large audience and many customers: MacCaulay Mann Heraldry, whose 'coats of arms' research services did well, and Paul and Kay Maresso, who found it difficult to keep up with the demand for their silverware jewellery.

The biggest attraction of all, however, was the British monarchy parade – a procession of marchers clad in authentic period costumes (supplied by Bermans and Nathans of London) portraying Henry VIII and his wives, Beefeaters and Queen Victoria. Accompanied by bagpipes, drums and flutes, banners and flags, they paraded at noon every day from the store to the hotel, thence along the main street and back via the bank to the Diamond.

Japan buys British hand tools

British firms which took part in the Engineers Small Tools and Hand Tools Exhibition at the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo from 11-15 November gained substantial orders from Japanese buyers. The exhibition was sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and 15 firms participated.

Stanley Tools, Sheffield, secured an order for £50,000 worth of Surform Tools. Noel Williams, marketing director of Stanley Tools, said 'There is room here for tools of the highest quality, as are made in Britain. We can provide this quality and compared with existing products – both local and imported on the market – our prices seem highly competitive.'

Burgess Power Tools of Leicester sold £10,000 worth of engraving kits alone during the exhibition, together with orders for other do-it-yourself products.

Dormer Tools, Sheffield, concluded an agreement with distributors in Tokyo and Chris Drewett, export director, expects medium-term sales in Japan to approach £500,000 a year.

Many of the British exhibitors consider that Japan could be entering a DIY boom and they are confident of a major growth in sales of high quality products to the Japanese market.

Burgess Power Tools, in Tokyo – £10,000 worth orders.

International Spring Fair '76 – first for NEC

The first event to be held at the National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham will be the International Spring Fair '76, a trade exhibition of the gift and hardware industries. The fair will be held from 1-5 February and will be co-sponsored by the British Hardware Promotion Council and Trade Promotion Services Ltd.

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, will be a guest at a 'contact evening' held during the fair by the National Hardware Alliance.

British firms score at Cologne sports fair

From R. Tempest, British Embassy, Commercial Department, Bonn: After a two and a half years' gap since the last exhibition of this type, the International Sports Facilities and Swimming Pools Fair took place in Cologne from 5-8 November.

This fair, held in conjunction with a congress in which British lecturers took part, is designed to appeal particularly to those government and local authorities, and private investors who provide sports facilities.

Sponsored by the building centre group and the British Overseas Trade Board, was a joint venture in which 14 British firms, covering a wide spectrum of equipment for sports facilities, participated. A further six British firms participated in the fair.

Contact fair

This is a fair where no order books are filled – it is essentially a contact fair. Its value, which can only be assessed months after it has closed, is largely dependent on the energy expended in following up the inquiries received.

The provision of sports facilities seems to be one of the sectors least affected by recession. Both the public and private sector do not appear to have lost their interest in investing in the expanding demand for sports facilities.

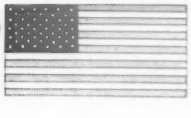
British services

The British exhibitors were able to offer services, for the design and building of complete golf courses, swimming pools, squash courts, pumps, keep-fit equipment, stadium seating, cleaning equipment, and grass maintenance equipment, through to small automatic chlorine dosing equipment.

The fair was visited by about 13,500 inland and foreign visitors during the four days and provided plenty of potential for the would-be exporter.

In the Federal Republic, there are clear signs that the hitherto neglected sports of golf and squash are beginning to attract much more interest, which should provide excellent opportunities in the future for the very experienced British firms in these fields.

EXPORTS TO THE USA?



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Introducing the Straths: servicing

P&O have now renamed their General Cargo ships with names beginning with STRATH. All the Straths will be easily identifiable in their new and distinctive livery.

The world trade routes connecting the UK and Europe with ports in the Arabian/Iranian Gulf, Red Sea, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, East Africa, Japan, Mediterranean ports, New Zealand and Australia will be served with a fleet of some 75 ships capable of handling break-bulk/unit loads, heavy lifts, machinery plant and

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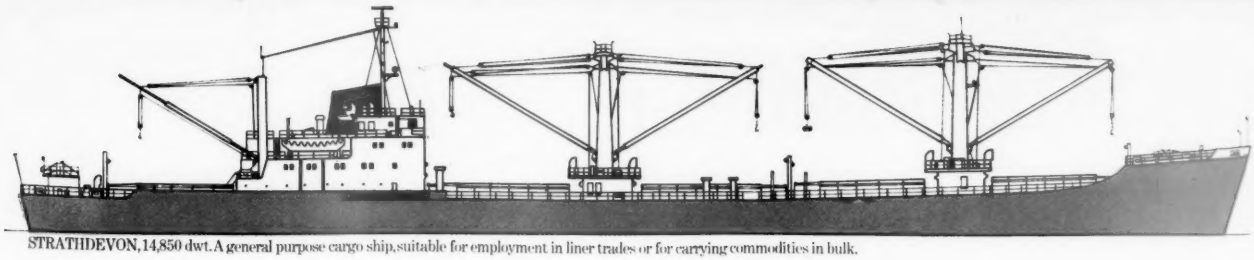
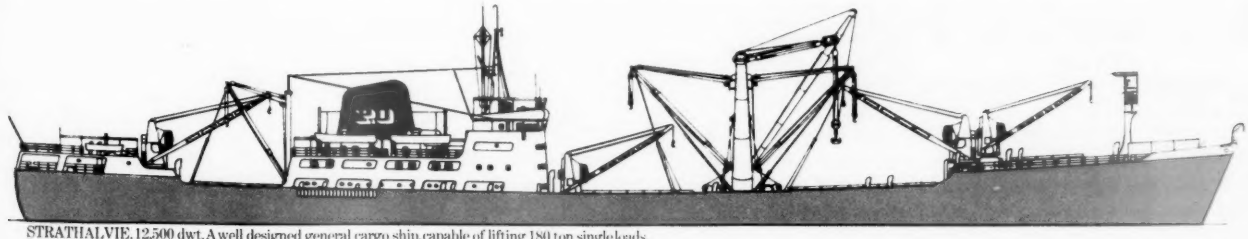
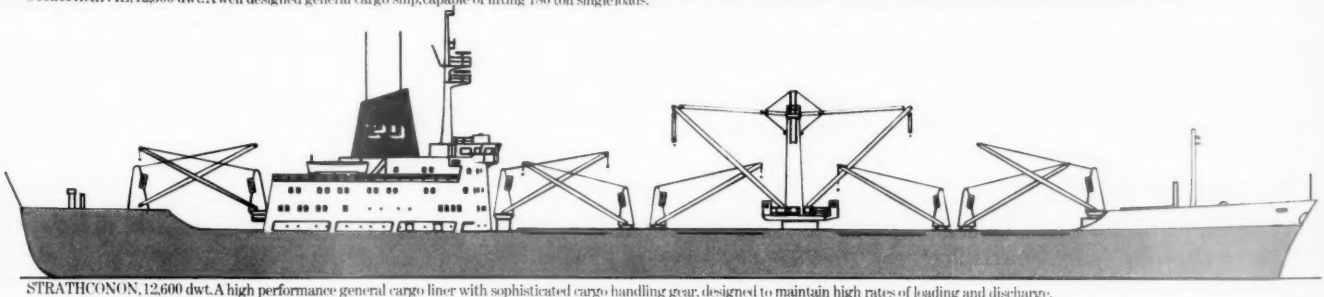


STRATHDEVON, 14,850 dwt. A general purpose cargo ship, suitable for employment in liner trades or for carrying commodities in bulk.



STRATHALVIE, 12,500 dwt. A well designed general cargo ship, capable of lifting 180 ton single loads.



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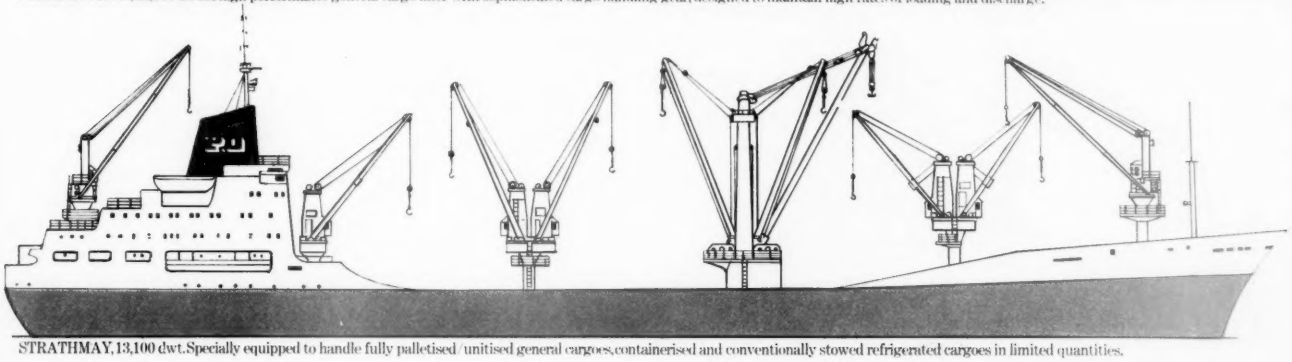
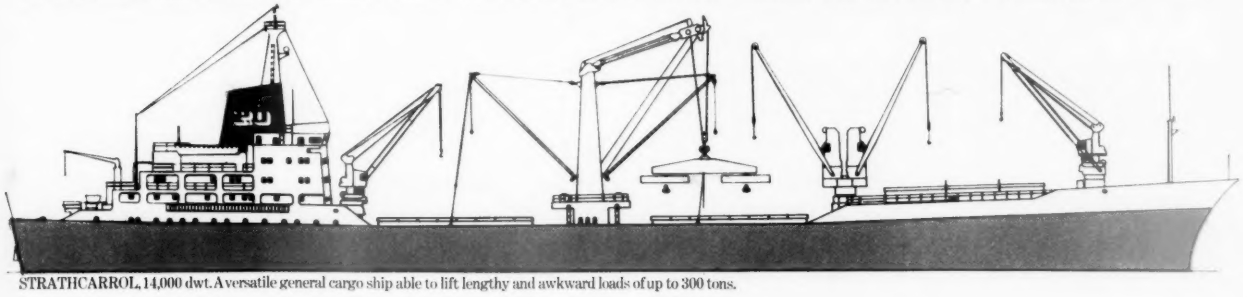


STRATHMAY, 13,100 dwt. Specially equipped to handle fully palletised / unitised general cargoes, containerised and conventionally stowed refrigerated cargoes in limited quantities.



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international trade routes.

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Trade Information

Peter Shore's review of Anglo-Israeli trade relations

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, in a speech to the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce in London on 18 November, looked forward to a strong increase in Anglo-Israel trade, now running at £300 million a year.

Mr. Shore also condemned the recent UN resolution on racialism and spoke about 'the vexed question of the Boycott'. He emphasised that UK exporters must decide for themselves how they dealt with the boycott situation.

Mr. Shore said: 'We have made it perfectly clear on a number of occasions – and it has recently been reasserted in vigorous terms by my colleague Eric Deakins in the House – that this Government deplores and is opposed to any boycott that lacks international support and authority.

'That part of the Boycott which relates to direct Arab action against trading with Israel is not one which immediately affects our interests in the UK. But there are two aspects on which I wish to comment.

'First, I believe that the Boycott does deprive both Israel and the Arab States of very considerable benefits that trade, investment and the transfer of technology can bring.

'Secondly, the EEC has signed, or is in the process of negotiating, a network of commercial agreements with many Mediterranean States including both Israel and her Arab neighbours. The principle underlying these agreements is one of improving the flow of trade, and the Boycott is clearly inconsistent with this.

'There is though a part of the Boycott which does affect the UK directly (though implemented with varying degrees of vigour). The so-called Secondary Boycott forces upon traders in this country decisions which undoubtedly they would wish not to have to make. If the boot was on the other foot, if Israel was demanding limitations in our commercial dealings with Arab States with whom she was in dispute, I would equally deplore it. As a Trade Miniter, I want to see our commercial relations expanding in all the worthwhile market place of the world. I do not want to see any unnecessary restrictions and impediments.

'It must however be for our exporters to decide how they deal with the situation which they currently face in doing business with the Middle East. If choices have to be made then they are choices which firms must make in the light of their own commercial judgement.

'The government cannot sensibly seek to direct or instruct firms to supply specific markets. Those of you here this evening who export to various parts of the world would certainly strongly resist any such directions. Nor can we prevent exporters from providing the declarations and documents required about goods they are shipping to particular countries. These are often part of the import regulations of the countries concerned, and to direct firms not to comply – even if we had the legal right to do so – could bring to an end our export trade with those countries. This would be dangerous for this country's future economic prospects and of course would be damaging to employment at home. I cannot ignore these realities.

'Officials in my Department are however available to discuss with firms any problems which they may encounter in pursuing trade opportunities. Such knowledge and experience as is available in my Department can be put at their disposal to help remove some of the ignorance and unnecessary anxieties which surprisingly still exists. For example it is not always understood that Iran has nothing to do with the Boycott. It is not always understood that merely exporting non-military goods to Israel is in general compatible with flourishing trade with the Arab countries.

'There is one further point about the Secondary Boycott which I should like to make. The Boycott authorities, I understand, say that the Boycott is not directed against the Jews nor against firms owned or managed by Jews. But of course one of the Secondary Boycott's provisions explicitly discriminates against Zionists. Jew and Zionists – a fine distinction.

'If we can look forward to further moves towards political detente, and to the dismantling of the apparatus of conflict in the Middle East, then surely part of this process must be the removal of this and other aspects of the Secondary Boycott.

'Meanwhile we and other countries of the EEC shall continue to encourage our trade with the State of Israel. When I visited last month, I had talks with Mr. Haim Bar Lev, who we are delighted to see here tonight, and with other leaders of the Israeli Government on a wide range of international, as well as bilateral, economic topics.

'We discussed the work of the Anglo-Israel Working Party which has existed for some time, and both Mr. Bar Lev and I came to the conclusions that we could develop our co-operation in a more structured way. We are now seeking to find a structure which reflects the fact that Israel like Britain operates a broadly market economy and which is appropriate to our mutual requirements.'

Customs and Excise: changes in Section 7 relief procedures

Simplified procedures for the exportation of Section 7 relief goods will take effect on 1 April 1976.

Briefly, the changes are:

1 Pre-entry on Forms XS 142 and XS 142A will end and be replaced by export specifications, Forms C 273 or C 63A (for goods subject to export licence) as appropriate.
2 Notice of export packings will not normally be required.
3 Commercial shipping documents will be accepted as evidence of exportation.
4 The relief scheduling scheme will end; statistical scheduling arrangements will continue.

Existing Section 7 relief claimants will be advised of the new procedures by the issue of an amendment slip to Notice No. 221 (October 1975) before the date of the change.

Exports of non-alloy ferrous scrap to countries outside the European Community: licensing arrangements

The existing arrangements for licensing exports of non-alloy ferrous scrap to countries outside the European Community are to continue for a further three months from 1 January 1976. Applications for licences valid from 1 January should be received by 8 December.

The quota for the quarter commencing 1 January 1976 has to be decided but it will be notified to the trade as soon as practicable. Under the established arrangements agreed for scrap in the Community, licences should be valid for two months and should be granted only to qualified exporters who normally deal with third countries, on evidence of firm orders. As far as possible licences should not be issued in any one month for a total tonnage of more than one-third of the quota for the quarter.

Licences under the quota will be restricted to established traders in non-alloy ferrous scrap and preference will be given to established exporters and to those who operate their own wharf facilities. The tonnage allocated will be related to, inter alia, the volume of firm orders obtained by the applicant direct from a buyer in a third country to which the export is to be made.

Export performance against licences issued will be taken into account in the consideration of allocations.

Export licences will be available for the following types of non-alloy ferrous scrap only:

1 compressed baled material, other than compressed unused sheet and sheet cuttings;
2 loose used wrought material containing 90 per cent or more, by weight, of a material of a thickness not exceeding 3mm;
3 turnings and borings.

Applications are now invited for export licences which will be valid for a period of not more than two months. The validity of a licence will not be extended beyond this period if the licence is not wholly used. Applications should be supported by documentary evidence (in English) of firm orders to sell to a buyer in a non-Community country to which the export is to be made (subject to the availability of United Kingdom export licence), stipulated tonnages of any one or more of the specified types of ferrous scrap in any stipulated period commencing not earlier than 1 January. Telex messages giving full details will be accepted but must be followed by the written confirmation of the overseas buyer within not more than two weeks afterwards. Additional supporting information is required, where appropriate, as follows:

a From any applicant who did *not* receive a licence to export non-alloy ferrous scrap to third countries in the period October/December 1975:

i a statement of the total tonnage of non-alloy ferrous scrap which the applicant traded in the last 12 months.
ii details of the total tonnage of exports in each month of 1975 to date of non-alloy ferrous scrap made by the applicant as follows:

	To Community destinations	To third countries
i Exports against own orders		
ii Exports against orders obtained by others		

b From any applicant who received a licence to export non-alloy ferrous scrap to third countries in the period October/December 1975 details of their exports of such scrap to Community destinations in October, November and December to date:

i against their own orders
ii against orders obtained by others

c From any applicants who operate their own wharf facilities and who have not previously supplied the information, a brief description of the facilities and whether these are owned or leased. Details of any lease should be provided.

Applications for licences valid from 1 January should be received by 8 December. Applications or evidence of further orders may be submitted after that date on the understanding that it may then no longer be practicable to take these into account in the licences issued from 1 January 1976. Later applications will, however, be taken into account in subsequent months until the quota is exhausted.

Applications for export licences accompanied by the relevant supporting evidence as requested, should be forwarded to the Department of Trade, Export Licensing Branch, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB. Continuation of the present relaxation of controls will depend on adequate supplies being maintained to UK users. No individual export licences are required for the export of ferrous scrap to Community countries.

Following extensive trials of the first automatic calender control system installed by Nuclear Enterprises in the Michelin Tire Co. in Northern Italy, two more systems have been ordered for the same plant at a cost of £30,000. The systems which are designed and produced by the Nuclear Enterprises Industrial Group at the company's Beenham Laboratories near Reading, are used for the production of rubber sheeting. They provide completely automatic control of calenders and extruders. The picture shows Nuclear Enterprises gauges (top) for measuring thickness of tyre cord in a calender machine.

United Kingdom import duties on 1 January 1976

The Import Duties (General) (No. 5) Order 1975 SI 1975 No. 1744 made under the Import Duties Act 1958 was laid before the House of Commons on 12 November. The Order establishes the main protective import duty rates from 1 January 1976.

Further Statutory Instruments establishing other rates of duty (eg preferential rates and suspensions) will be laid within the next week or so.

The main effects of the General Order are:

1 to make a further 20 per cent reduction in the duties on goods from other EEC countries, making a total reduction of 60 per cent on horticultural products and 80 per cent on other goods;

2 to maintain the existing duty-free entry for goods of Denmark, Ireland, the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the Overseas Countries and Territories associated with the European Economic Community and for most of the goods which were previously free of duty under the EFTA Convention;

3 to introduce the third move towards the Common Customs Tariff for imports from other countries, ie to reduce the gap between the UK rates applied at 1 January 1972 and those of the CCT by 80 per cent (60 per cent for horticultural products).

Duty suspensions

The General Order takes account of long-term CCT duty suspensions. Subsequent Reductions and Exemptions Orders will adjust the rates established in the General Order to take account of short-term CCT duty suspensions and to provide for suspensions applicable only in the UK.

Former 'revenue duties'

The General Order provides for import duties replacing the protective element of the revenue duties charged on beer, wines, spirits, hydrocarbon oil, matches and mechanical lighters prior to 1 January 1976. Such goods will also be liable to excise duty under the Finance (No. 2) Act 1975 (for further details see the article on the restructuring of the Customs revenue duties in *Trade and Industry* of 7 November, page 367).

Preferences for Mediterranean countries

For practical reasons, the General Order does not provide for all the preferential rates. Those accorded to goods imported from certain countries, eg under Community trade agreements, will be dealt with in separate Orders which are expected to be made shortly.

Preferences for developing countries

Preferential access to the UK market for certain products of developing countries will continue to be available from 1 January 1976 under the unified Generalised System of Tariff Preferences of the Communities (GSP). This will be implemented mainly by directly-applicable Community legislation as in 1975. (A notice in *Trade and Industry* of 5 September, page 571, gave preliminary information about GSP for 1976.) Final details of the Communities' GSP scheme are expected to be published during December in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* and notification of publication will be given in *Trade and Industry* as soon as possible.

Tariff quotas

As in 1975 there will be a number of tariff quotas providing for a limited amount of goods to be imported at reduced or nil rates of duty. Preliminary information was given in *Trade and Industry* of 17 October, pages 171-72.

HM Customs and Excise Tariff

The 1976 edition of the HM Customs and Excise Tariff and Overseas Trade Classification is now in course of distribution to subscribers. The initial distribution, which is expected to be completed by the first week in December, covers Parts 1 to 7 (the preamble), Part 8 (the main Tariff Schedule), Part 9 (rates of duty on goods which were exempt from duty on 1 January 1972), Part 13 (Anti-dumping duties) and Parts 14 and 15 (Excise Duties and Drawbacks). It includes the Parts affected by the restructuring of the revenue duties referred to in *Trade and Industry* of 7 November. The remaining Parts of the Tariff containing rates of duty for certain Mediterranean countries, the Generalised System of Tariff Preferences, the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and Overseas Countries and Territories associated with the EEC, Tariff Quotas and Temporary Reductions and Exemptions and certain special EFTA rates will be distributed as a series of amending Supplements.

Disclosure of information about imports

Consideration is being given under Section 3 of the Finance Act 1967 to the disclosure of information relating to the import of the following goods:

1975 SITC(R)		Code no.
719.62	Machines for filling, closing, sealing, capsuling or labelling bottles, cans, boxes, bags or other containers	8419 0979
	Other (including parts)	8419 1376

The Government is consulting the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, 75 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5BB on this proposal and the Association will take into account any views received from importers by 19 December 1975.

International copyright conventions

The Copyright (International Conventions) (Amendment No. 2) Order 1975 (SI 1975 No. 1837) will come into operation on 12 December 1975. The Order further amends the Copyright (International Conventions) Order 1972. It takes into account the accession of Bulgaria and Bangladesh to the Universal Copyright Convention.

Copies of the Order may be obtained from Sale Branch, Patent Office, Orpington, Kent BR5 3RD, or from any branch of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Notices to Importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH.

No. 1524: Imports of gold medals, gold medallions etc.

On and after 29 November 1975, the following goods may be imported into the UK from all sources, other than Southern Rhodesia, under the authority of the Open General Import Licence (ie without the need for an individual import licence):

Tariff heading	Description of goods
ex 71.12 ex 71.13	Gold medals, gold medallions, gold tablets and other such gold pieces in pictorial relief or bearing inscriptions, weighing not more than 8g, and of a value not exceeding £15 cif.
ex 99.05 ex 99.06	Gold medals, gold medallions, gold tablets and other such gold pieces in pictorial relief or bearing inscriptions, minted or manufactured after 1837, weighing not more than 8g, and of a value not exceeding £15 cif.

No. 1525: Imports of potatoes other than seed potatoes

A Notice in the 24 October edition of *Trade and Industry* (page 238) extended the import licensing arrangements for new and maincrop potatoes, as set out in NTI No. 1505 (*Trade and Industry*, 5 September 1975, page 576). Licences granted under these arrangements are valid until 31 December 1975.

The general provisions of NTI No. 1505 will continue to apply after December 1975, and henceforth licences will be granted valid up to 29 February 1976.

Traders should not make new applications in respect of consignments for which licences were granted valid to 31 December 1975, but not exhausted by that date. In such cases, licences should be sent to Import Licensing Branch for the validity date to be extended to 29 February 1976.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644, ext. 281/289.

No. 1526: Textiles from the Republic of Korea

Notice to Importers No. 1513, published in *Trade and Industry* of 3 October, stated that further consideration was being given to the question of licensing goods not covered by the criteria set out in that Notice.

As a result of applications dealt with under NTI 1513 the quota relating to knitted shirts, etc., falling within tariff heading 60.04 has been exhausted and no further licences can be issued in respect of imports in 1975.

In the case of the other three quotas, viz woven fabrics of man-made fibres within tariff heading 51.04, jerseys, pullovers, etc., within 60.05 and men's and boys' woven shirts within 61.03, it is expected that licences can be issued within the quota limits in respect of goods for which irrevocable letters of credit were opened before 22 August. These licences are now being issued against applications, backed by such irrevocable letters of credit, which have already been received in Import Licensing Branch. A small balance might be left in the case of the woven fabrics and woven shirts when these licences have been issued. If so, a further announcement will be made on the allocation of the quantity amongst other applications already received.

Until the negotiations between the EEC and the Republic of Korea are completed it is not possible to make any announcement about arrangements for 1976. A notice on this will be issued as soon as possible.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644, ext. 300.

Direct dialling to Cyprus and Finland

Two more countries – Finland and Cyprus – can now be dialled direct from Britain as part of a Post Office drive to extend international dialling. Dialled calls to Finland will cost 35p a minute and to Cyprus 45p a minute – less during the cheap-rate periods.

To telephone direct to Cyprus or Finland, callers should first dial 010 which directs their calls to the international equipment in London. Next comes the country code – 357 for Cyprus, 358 for Finland. This is followed by the area code for the place required, then the subscriber's number. There are some exceptions with area codes. Where these begin with 0 (9 in the case of Finland) that first digit should not be dialled. The access code for Nicosia is 010 357 21, and for Limassol 010 357 51.

For operator connected calls to Cyprus customers on exchanges beginning with 01- (London), 021-(Birmingham), 031-(Edinburgh), 041-(Glasgow), 061-(Manchester), should dial 105. Customers on other exchanges with direct access to an international operator should dial 155.

Scotch whisky exports to French Overseas Departments and Territories

As announced in *Trade and Industry* (31 October 1975, page 301), certificates of age and origin will be required for Scotch whisky when exported to the four French Overseas Departments and all the French Overseas Territories (except the New Hebrides) as follows:

French Overseas Departments	French Overseas Territories
Guadeloupe	New Caledonia
Martinique	French Polynesia
French Guiana	St. Pierre et Miquelon
Reunion	Comoro Islands
	Afars and Issas
	Wallis and Futuna
	French Antarctic Territories

The required certificate (Form C and E 94G) is obtainable from HM Customs and Excise warehouse of exportation.

Certificates are already required for exports of Scotch whisky to France itself (see *Trade and Industry*, 31 October 1975, page 301). Inquiries: OTAR ext. 423/482/439.

ECGD news

Polish tractor project: £31m extension

The Exports Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a further £31 million loan which the Barclays Bank Group has made available to Bank Handlowy w Warsawie to help finance an extension to the Ursus Project Tractor Plant in Poland. This is a supplement to the Massey-Ferguson Perkins-Agromet Motoimport £155 million contract announced last year.

Under the previous loan of £127 million signed in September 1974, MFP is responsible for projects to modernise Poland's tractor and diesel engine industries. The latest loan will help finance equipment and components to build Perkins six cylinder diesel engines at the Andoria engine plant at Andruchow in the south of Poland. The factory will produce 25,000 engines each year with a potential expansion to 40,000. Production of Perkins' engines at the Andoria plant is due to begin in 1977.

By 1980 it is expected that the Ursus Tractor Group will be producing 75,000 tractor units and 90,000 engine units annually.

Indonesia: £20m line of credit

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £20 million line of credit which Lloyds Bank has made available to the Indonesian Ministry of Finance. The loan will be used to help finance contracts for capital goods and services placed in the UK by Indonesian Ministries.

To qualify under the terms of the loan a contract must have a minimum value of £200,000 and be placed by 15 May 1977. Some contracts have already been nominated by Ministry of Public Works and Electric Power for road building and land reclamation equipment. They include contracts with Hymac of Newbury, Aveling Barford of Grantham, Ruston Bucyrus of Lincoln, J. C. Bamford Excavators of Uttoxeter, and Caterpillar Tractors Co. of Glasgow.

Details are available from A. E. Jenkinson of ECGD (tel. 01-606 6699, ext. 7171) or J. C. Burnell of Lloyds Bank (tel. 01-626 1500, ext. 2087).

£17m for Zambian copper mines

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £17 million loan which Morgan Grenfell and Co. Ltd., acting on behalf of Lloyds Bank Ltd., have made available to Roan Consolidated Mines Ltd., Zambia.

The loan will help finance a contract awarded to Seltrust Engineering Ltd., London to modernise and increase production of copper ore from the mines at Baluba, Chambishi and Mufulira. The processing facilities at Chambishi and Mufulira will also be expanded to cope with the additional output of copper ore.

The work on all three sites is scheduled for completion by May 1978.

Opportunity Denmark

The Anglo-Danish Trade Council in conjunction with the International Division of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry is organising a half-day seminar at its London headquarters, 69 Cannon Street, on 11 December to provide information on trading with Denmark. Topics on the agenda are Marketing opportunities in Denmark, Setting up business in Denmark, and Danish industry – its potential for Britain.

The chairman will be Lord McFadzean, hon. president of the Anglo-Danish Society and deputy chairman of Midland Bank Ltd., and the speakers will be Eric Wowern, managing director, McManus Advertising Agency, Copenhagen, H. Macgaard Nielsen, chairman, Danish National Committee for International Chambers of Commerce, and Ole Damgaard-Nielsen, chairman, Danish Export Promotion Board. In addition there will be a panel to answer questions and take part in discussions, consisting of the Danish Ambassador, Erling Kristiansen; the British Ambassador to Denmark, Sir Andrew Stark; Mogens Harttung, president of the British Import Union; and Rupert Hambro, chairman of the Anglo-Danish Trade Council and executive director, Hambros Bank Ltd. Details are available from H. I. McDonnald, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB, tel. 01-248 4444, ext. 132.

Marketing in Greece

The London Chamber of Commerce is organising a half day seminar on marketing in Greece which will be held at the International Press Centre, Shoe Lane, Fleet Street on 16 December starting at 10.30 a.m. Subjects for discussion will include marketing opportunities in Greece, the Greek economy and Greek shipping interests. Further details are available from Mr. I. Macdonald, London Chamber of Commerce, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4M 5AB (tel. 01-248 4444, ext. 132).

Hints to business men booklets

Revised editions of the booklets on Italy, Iran and Japan have been published in the 'Hints to Business Men' series. British business men who intend visiting these countries on export business can obtain copies of the booklets from Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room D 05-09, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7146, or any Regional Office of the Department of Industry.

Tariff and Trade Notices

Sweden

Footwear: import quota system. *Trade and Industry*, 7 November 1975, page 360, warned of the imposition of a global quota system on the import of certain categories of footwear.

Further information has now been received in the form of an official notice to importers as issued by the Swedish Board of Trade. An unofficial translation of this notice is available from OTAR ext. 458/461.

Belgium

Pesticides and phytopharmaceuticals. The *Moniteur Belge* No. 213 of 4 November 1975 published a decree dated 5 June 1975 amplifying and modifying the regulations concerning the conservation, trade in and use of pesticides and phytopharmaceuticals, particularly with regard to labelling.

Products already approved and authorised by the Belgian Ministries of Agriculture and Public Health may still be marketed but all products are required to comply with the new provisions and a timetable is to be introduced for renewing existing approvals and authorisations. The decree comes into force on 1 February 1976. Copies of the decree (in French) are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 288/466/467.

Spain

Import duty suspensions. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 12 November 1975, announced the suspension of import duty on the following: frozen lamb meat, tariff heading 02.01.A.3.b, from 12 November until 11 February 1976; seed potatoes, tariff heading 07.01.A.1.b for the Balearic Islands, from 12 November until 31 December 1975; and methyl alcohol, tariff heading 29.04.A.1 from 23 August until 22 November 1975.

The Spanish *State Gazette*, 13 November 1975, published Decree 2906/1975 of the Ministry of Finance suspending the import duties and home compensation tax levy on the importation of the equipment and machinery already imported or to be imported by the Spanish railways for their modernisation plan (*Plan revisado de modernizacion de la RENFE 1972-75*). In the case of road vehicles, in order to benefit from the concession, it will be necessary to prove that no similar vehicles are being built locally. Copies of the Spanish text will be available shortly from OTAR. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Malta

Plastic baby pants: import licensing. The Malta *Government Gazette*, 11 November 1975, announced that with immediate effect, the importation of baby pants (plastic) has been placed under import licensing control. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 471/472/473/462.

Greece

Investment. The Greek Government has issued a law affecting investment contracts signed under LD 2687/1953 during the period of the dictatorship. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5338.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Lebanon

Export subsidy surtax on textiles. *Trade and Industry* of 20 June 1974 (page 600) stated that the export subsidy surtax of 10 per cent on certain textile products would continue to be levied indefinitely.

A new legislative Decree No. 10590 of 7 August 1975 concerning the export subsidy surtax was published in the Lebanese *Official Gazette* No. 66 of 18 August 1975. An extract from an unofficial translation of the decree giving details of the textiles affected is available on request. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 475/7062.

Ghana

Textile imports. Notification was given in *Trade and Industry*, 29 August 1975, page 515, that the import of textiles and textile goods into Ghana had been banned with immediate effect. The following notice has now been published in the Ghana *Commercial and Industrial Bulletin*, 31 October 1975:

NOTICE TO IMPORTERS NO. 423
IMPOSITION OF A BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF TEXTILES AND TEXTILE ARTICLES

The attention of importers and the general public is drawn to the Notice to Importers which was published in *Commercial and Industrial Bulletin* No. 49 of 22 August 1975 banning the importation of textiles and textile articles.

2 With a view to avoiding hardship the Ministry of Trade has continued, since the Notice was published, to allow entry into the country, despite the ban, of consignments of textiles which were then in transit or awaiting shipment.

3 The Ministry of Trade now wishes to inform importers and the general public that enough time has now been allowed for all such consignments to be delivered and that as from 8 November 1975 the Ministry will not entertain any more applications for the release of imported textiles and that any unauthorised consignments of textiles which arrive in the country on or after that date will be forfeited and auctioned by the Customs and Excise Department outright without any reference to the Ministry of Trade.

4 Importers and the general public are further informed that the only authorised textile goods which will be allowed entry into Ghana as from 1 November 1975 are the following:

i Textiles which are not affected by the ban as detailed in *Commercial and Industrial Bulletin* No. 49 of 22 August 1975 (as listed in the *Trade and Industry* notice referred to above).

ii Textiles which are imported under the authority of a valid Specific Import Licence issued by the Ministry of Trade;

iii Textiles which are industrial raw materials and which are imported by local industries registered with the Ministry of Industries.

5 To prevent abuse of this concession, all importers of textiles listed in paragraph 4 section i-iii above, are requested to apply formally to the Senior Principal Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Tourism, PO Box M.47. Accra for the Customs release of the goods.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 473/472/471/462.

the
INTERNATIONAL
BANK

In London with sister institutions — the Arab Bank (Overseas) Limited in Zurich and Geneva — the Arab Bank (Nigeria) Limited in Lagos, Kano and Apapa—Associates UBAE (Union de Banques Arabes et Europeennes) in Luxembourg and Frankfurt. UBAF (Union de Banques Arabes et francaise) in Paris, UBAN (The Arab Japanese Finance Co Ltd) in Hong Kong; branches throughout the Arab world and correspondents world wide, the Arab Bank provides a complete international banking service.

the
LOCAL BANK

The Arab Bank has branches in
Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Bahrain, Dubai, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Ras Alkhaimah, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah, Tunisia, Yemen Arab Republic

the
ARAB BANK

General Management: Amman Established 1930

Capital & Reserves	17,120,000 Jordan Dinars
Deposits	276,100,615 Jordan Dinars
Total Assets	452,162,130 Jordan Dinars

As at December 31st, 1974

ARAB BANK LIMITED
EMPIRE HOUSE, ST. MARTIN'S LE GRAND, LONDON EC1P 1DR
Telephone 01-606 7801 Telex 884359
Cables Bankarabi London EC1

Zaire

Pharmaceutical products: import arrangements. With reference to *Trade and Industry*, 20 June 1975, page 699, Zaire's Department of Health apparently addressed a letter of 30 October to overseas manufacturers of pharmaceutical products and medical dressings, which would in future be the only products allowed to be imported. The letter requests overseas manufacturers to inform the authorities of the types of products they can supply and delivery periods in order that local purchasing can be properly organised.

Manufacturers are asked to identify their products from the reference numbers given in the list; to supply the generic name of the product shown in the list (the authorities emphasise that they intend to buy generics and not trade name products); the type of packaging used by manufacturers and the fob price for the quantities specifically mentioned in the list irrespective of the quantities normally given by manufacturers when quoting for supplies to customers.

Manufacturers are also requested to give details of their quality control methods or those required for particular products by their national governments. A copy of the Department of Health's letter and its enclosed list, which are in French, are available for inspection. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 472/462/471/473.

CRE tel. Direct dialling **OTAR** telephone 01-248 5757
Extensions to **OTAR** numbers are given at the end of each notice

Guinea

Import procedure. British firms interested in doing business in the Republic of Guinea (see *Trade and Industry*, 14 November 1975, page 462) should write and supply literature (which must be in French) and, if possible, samples to Le Camarade Saidou Diallo, Directeur Général, Importex, Ministère du Commerce Extérieur, Conakry, Republique de Guinée. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5334.

South Africa

Tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List 694, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 21 November 1975, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on motor vehicle (excluding motor cycle) headlamps classifiable under tariff subheading 85.09.30.

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade asssociation.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

Tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 17 October 1975.

R1955	BN 84.11. The effect of this amendment is that the rate of duty on certain ventilating fans and parts thereof is increased from 5 per cent (General) and free (Preferential) to 15 per cent (General) and 10 per cent (Preferential).

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 471/472/473/462.

Singapore

Weighing and measuring instruments: import permitted. The Singapore Registrar of Imports and Exports has issued I and E Notice 19/75, dated 7 November 1975, indicating that control on the import of the following goods has been removed:

a Barometers
b Calipers
c Flow meters
d Micrometers
e Mileometers (or odometers)
f Pressure gauges
g Rulers
h Speed indicators including magnetic speed indicators
I Surveying instruments
j Thermometers, pyrometers
k Weighing machines, weighbridges, weighing machinery and weights of all kinds.

Traders are reminded, however, that they should check with the Singapore Weights and Measures Office, whether items g and k are acceptable for local use. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 401/468/469.

One of a convoy of six Hymac excavators on its way from South Wales to Dover, and then, after the Channel crossing, by road again to Afghanistan – a 4,800-mile journey. Hymac appointed Astran International to deliver the £100,000 order overland to Pul-i-Khumri, close to the Afghan-Russian border. Transit time from Dover to Pul-i-Khumri is estimated at 21 days. The shipment, made up of four Hymac 880C hydraulic excavators and two Hymac 270 excavator loaders, will be used on a project financed by the Asian Development Bank and involving the extension of the irrigation system at Gawargan and Chardarah, between the Hindu Kush and River Oxus. Astran will be delivering parts and spares for the excavators on its regular groupage services to Kabul.

Malaysia

Increases in import duties and surtax. The Malaysian Minister of Finance in his budget speech of 6 November moved that import duties be increased on the following:

Fresh and dried fruits
Motor cars valued at more than M Ringgit 20,000
Motorcycles
Musical instruments, gramophones, dictating machines, etc.
Refrigerators
Dish washers and washing machines
Calculating and data processing machines
Perfume, cosmetics and toilet preparations
Carpets and rugs
Clocks and watches

There are also to be increases on other luxury items, such as hand tools, white cement, metal articles. These increased rates will extend to Penang, even if no duty has previously been payable there.

In addition import surtax will be increased to 5 per cent.

A further notice will be issued when details are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 469/468/401.

Internal combustion piston engines: import control. The Malaysian Government has published the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) (Amendment No. 7) Order 1975 which came into effect on 23 October 1975. The order amends the First Schedule to the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) Order 1975 by inserting in the appropriate place:

Heading no.	Description of goods	Countries
84.06	Internal combustion engines	
292	Piston and cylinder liners for diesel engines	All countries
392	Piston and cylinder liners for other than diesel engines	All countries

The First Schedule lists goods prohibited from entry into the Federation of Malaysia without an import licence. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 469/401/468.

Indonesia

Electric and telephone wire and cable. The Indonesian Ministry of Finance has announced as from 13 October 1975 a reduction on import duty on basic materials used in the production of electric and telephone wire and cable as follows:

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

		Import duty reduced	
Tariff no.	Description of goods	From	To
74.03.90	Copper wire rod 8mm	10	5
76.02.30	Aluminium wire rod	10	5
73.14.99	Galvanised steel wire	30	5
73.12.00	Steel tape	10	5
39.02.44	PVC compound	10	5
39.02.40	PB compound	10	5
39.02.89	Polyethylene tape without glue	60	20
39.01.79	Polyester tape without glue	60	20
74.05.00	Copper foil of a thickness not exceeding 0.15mm	40	10
76.04.30	Aluminium foil of a thickness not exceeding 0.20mm, one or both surfaces are backed with polyethylene	15	10
27.13.90	Petro jelly	20	5

Import duty on electric and telephone wire and cable has been increased as follows:

		Import duty increased	
Tariff no.	Description of goods	From	To
74.03.10	Bare copper wire	20	60
76.02.19	Aluminium wire	20	60
	Insulated electric wire, electric cable:		
	A not fitted with connectors:		
85.23.10	i enamelled wire	30	60
85.23.20	ii textile covered wire	30	60
	iii others		
85.23.50	a Weighing more than 10kg per 100m – plastic covered	20	60
	b weighing not more than 10kg per 100m		
85.23.40	1 plastic covered	40	60
85.23.69	2 others	40	60
85.23.60	B fitted with connectors	40	60

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Sales tax has been reduced to 5 per cent on items 39.02.89, 39.01.79, 74.05.00, 76.04.30 and increased to 10 per cent on items 74.03.10 and 76.02.19. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 469/401/468.

Australia

Chairs (banana loungers) request for temporary protection refused. A notice in *Trade and Industry* on 26 September reported a request for temporary protection against imports of banana loungers. Following consideration of submissions received from interested parties the Australian Government has decided not to forward this request to the Temporary Assistance Authority. The Department of Manufacturing Industry will however, keep a watch on developments in this sector and should circumstances warrant, the application for temporary protection will be reviewed. Ref. CRE 1879/75. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5319.

New Zealand

Mineral products: Customs Tariff Review. The New Zealand Customs Department has announced that Section V of the tariff will soon be covered under the Customs Tariff Review (see *Trade and Industry*, 27 June 1975, page 779). The closing date for receipt of submissions in respect of these tariff items is 31 December 1975.

Section V of the tariff covers the following three chapters:

Section V

MINERAL PRODUCTS

25 Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement

26 Metallic ores, slag and ash

27 Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes

The Customs Department has indicated that British exporters who wish to make submissions should do so by letter (five copies) through the Commercial Department, British High Commission, PO Box 369, Wellington, New Zealand. Ref. CRE 45466. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5321.

Customs tariff amendments: smokers' lighters. The New Zealand Government has issued Customs Tariff (Smokers' Lighters) Amendment Order 1975, which came into force on 8 November 1975, amending tariff items 98.10.001 and 98.10.002 which now read as follows:

No.	Description	Unit	Rates of duty effective on and after 1 July: Year	Normal tariff	British preferential	Other preferential rates of duty
Chapter 98						
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES						
98.10	Mechanical lighters and similar lighters, including chemical and electrical lighters, and parts thereof, excluding flints and wicks: Smokers' lighters:					
98.10.003	As may be determined by the Minister	No.	1975	50%*	50%*	Aul 5% Can 35% CPC 50%*
98.10.004	Other	No.	1975 1976 1977	35% 35% 35%	29% 31% 35%	Aul 5% Can 35% CPC 35%
98.10.005	Other lighters	..	1975 1976 1977	44% 41% 35%	29% 31% 35%	Aul 5% Can 27½% DC Free CPC 27½%

* Or such lower rate of duty as the Minister may in any case direct.
Aul = Australia. Can = Canada
CPC = Commonwealth Preference Countries. DC = Developing Countries.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 401/468/469.

Registered trade marks

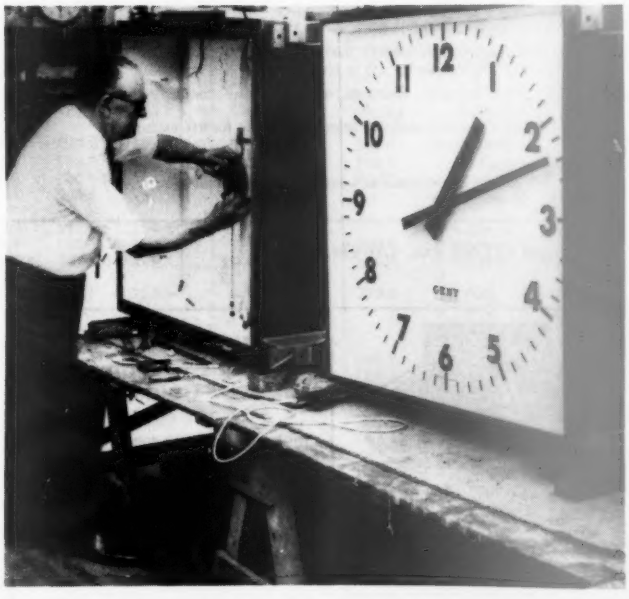
The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

United States

Nitrates, nitrites and salt in meat. The US *Federal Register*, 11 November 1975, published under the Federal meat regulations a proposal to modify the use of nitrates, nitrites and salt in meat and poultry products. Written comments should be submitted by 12 January 1976. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 456/457/7312.

Fruit-flavoured sweetened spread. The US *Federal Register*, 11 November 1975, published proposed rules to issue a new regulation for labelling fruit-flavoured spreads not conforming to the usual standards of identity. Written comments (five copies) must be submitted by 12 January 1976. A copy of the text is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 456/457/7312.

Entry of merchandise. The US Customs Service has proposed rules to establish a new duty assessment by account (DABA). This



Two 36in square double-sided slave clocks for the new National Assembly Hall, Korea, under construction at the Leicester works of Gent and Co. Ltd. The clocks are housed in stainless steel cases and will be hung on external walls. The complete clock system for the Government of the Republic of Korea's new National Assembly Hall in Seoul has been supplied by Gent and Co.

procedure will permit an importer to file at a designated port of entry documents and an estimated duty deposit to cover all the importer's shipments released during the previous month.

Before an importer can utilise DABA an application must be filed for the establishment of an account and to do this an importer must meet certain conditions imposed by the United States Customs Service. Written comments to be submitted by 2 December 1975. Inquiries: CRE 2 tel. 01-215 5629.

Import surcharge: appeal decision. The US Court of Customs and Patent Appeals has reversed the decision of the Customs Court in July 1974 that the imposition in August 1971 of an import surcharge was illegal. An appeal against the decision is expected to be made to the US Supreme Court. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5629.

Barbados

Milk and cream: import licensing. The Barbados authorities by SI No. 235 of 1975 state that an import licence is required for the importation of the following items:

BTN no.	Description
04.01	Milk and cream, fresh, not concentrated or sweetened
04.02	Milk and cream preserved, concentrated or sweetened

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Brazil

Electrical goods: duty increases. Customs Policy Council Resolution 2,570, published in Brazil's *Diario Oficial*, 3 October 1975, increased the import duty on electrical goods in chapter 85 in the following manner:

Tariff no.	Goods	Duty rate
85.01.90.04	Of transformers and induction coils 'ex' Exclusively for use in electronics	85%
85.18.05.00	Adjustable or variable electric condensers	85%
85.18.90.00	Parts and components 'ex' Intended for use in the production of condensers of heading 85.18.05.00	75%
85.19.01.03	Commutator or selector switches 'ex' Exclusively for use in electronics	85%
85.19.90.01	Pins, contacts, terminals, strips, etc., for connection and switching 'ex' For commutator or selector switches for use exclusively in electronics	75%
85.19.90.99	Other 'ex' For commutator or selector switches for use exclusively in electronics	75%

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

Chile

Typewriter and calculating machine parts: duty reduced. Chilean Ministry of Finance decree 1,234 published in *Diario Oficial*, 6 November 1975, reduces the rates of duty for the following items:

		New *ad valorem* rate
84.55.01.02	Parts and accessories (other than covers, carrying cases and the like) suitable for use solely or principally with typewriters classified under heading 84.51.	35%
84.55.02.01	Parts and accessories (other than covers, carrying cases and the like) suitable for use solely or principally with calculating machines classified under heading 84.52	35%

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Venezuela

Textile fabrics: tariff reduction. As part of the Venezuelan Government's plans for encouraging small and medium sized industry, the Minister of Development, on 14 October 1975, announced that import duties on textile fabrics for small and medium sized companies in the clothing industry would be reduced. Details of the reductions in duty have yet to be received. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Colombia

Prior deposit reduced. Colombian Monetary Board Resolution 51 of 17 September 1975 reduces the local currency deposit (equal to a minimum percentage of the value shown on the import registration) importers are required to make at the time they apply for an import licence to 32 per cent. In the summer the local currency deposit had been reduced from 40 per cent to 35 per cent. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Duty amendments. Decrees 1608 of August 1975 and 1853 of September 1975 notify the following changes in duty (the previous duty rate is shown in brackets):

28.56.00.02	15% (25%)	84.54.89.04	30% (60%)
31.05.03.01	70% (1%)	85.21.01.99	40% (30%)
31.05.03.99	70% (10%)	90.01.01.00	30% (20%)
37.03.01.00	30% (20%)	90.01.02.00	30% (20%)
49.07.00.02	1% (60%)	90.01.03.00	30% (20%)

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

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Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,365	9,380	2,130	2,090							
Series in						£ million				£ million		
1970	100	100	100	100	100	450	325	68	−30	735	−12	747
1971	102	103	102	93	104	70	−148	52	−10	1,048	282	766
1972	104	109	104	82	117	−5	−175	48	−11	128	−690	818
1973	110	114	107	88	125	960	396	102	334	−835	−2,295	1,460
1974	110	114	105	98	113	553	666	81	−68	−3,668	−5,234	1,566
1972 3rd qtr.	104	110	103	79	115	8	−35	6	−16	−89	−280	191
4th qtr.	107	111	105	80	124	19	13	24	−10	−11	−213	202
1973 1st qtr.	110	115	109	86	130	353	166	37	51	−125	−329	204
2nd qtr.	109	112	104	83	118	274	88	3	185	−63	−388	325
3rd qtr.	110	114	107	92	120	155	46	29	47	−217	−583	366
4th qtr	109	114	107	89	132	178	96	32	51	−430	−995	565
1974 1st qtr	106	113	108	97	112	−174	−31	18	−59	−846	−1,272	426
2nd qtr.	110	112	100	96	110	274	191	43	27	−947	−1,336	389
3rd qtr.	112	114	103	97	119	359	368	3	−14	−823	−1,199	376
4th qtr.	111	116	107	101	113	94	139	17	−22	−1,052	−1,427	375
1975 1st qtr.	110	116	106	93	102	−172	−4	−31	−57	−430	−836	406
2nd qtr.	107	114	103	86	100	−340	−121	−52	−52	−397	−687	290
3rd qtr.										−599	−929	330 ••
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−2.5	—	−0.8	−9.4	−13.2							
on a year earlier	+0.5	+2.2	+0.5	−7.4	−8.9							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Trade	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales*	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Exports	Imports
				monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972					
£m in base year			15,895											
Series in				thousands						thousands		thousands	£ million at current prices	
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	8,810	8,528
1972	102.6	102.3	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	855.0	3.7	147.3	9,140	9,830
1973	110.2	110.9	110.7	137.3	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	11,771	14,066
1974	106.4	108.0	109.9	102.7	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.9ø	2.6ø	302.6ø	15,886	21,120
1974 1st qtr.	104.0	106.3	109.8	103	101.4	12.9	212.5	138.3	125.0	572.9	2.5	288.6	3,490	4,762
2nd qtr.	107.9	109.6	107.3	104	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.3	579.4	2.5	313.0	3,996	5,332
3rd qtr.	108.4	109.9	111.0	109	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	621.2	2.7	310.1	4,231	5,430
4th qtr.	105.3	106.1	111.6	96	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	4,169	5,596
1975 1st qtr.	104.4	105.7	111.5	106	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	733.3	3.2	..	4,532	5,368
2nd qtr.	100.1	100.2	108.7	91	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	849.7	3.7	159.8	4,461	5,148
3rd qtr.	99.6	99.6	105.3	104	139.4	26.6	239.2 p	193.4 p	185.4	1008.5	4.3	135.2	4,651 p	5,583 p
1974 Nov.	105.8	106.9	112.8	98	115.2	18.3	223.8	164.8	153.9	643.5	2.8	279.8	1,338	1,920
Dec.	103.8	104.9	110.8	87	116.9	19.1	222.5	167.6	158.0	..	..	..	1,450	1,834
1975 Jan.	105.1	107.2	113.0	109	119.9	19.9	222.1	173.0	159.8	709.0e	3.0e	..	1,509	1,918
Feb.	105.0	106.6	112.3	113	121.9	19.9	218.8	175.9	162.0	736.7	3.2	196.3	1,479	1,806
Mar.	103.2	103.3	109.4	97	124.3	21.2	221.9	179.2	169.0	754.1	3.2	189.7	1,544	1,645
Apr.	101.5	101.7	120.2	89	129.1	21.7	222.9	182.5	170.1	794.2	3.4	176.5	1,365	1,726
May	99.5	99.5	102.5	90	134.5	25.0	226.2	187.3	176.4	853.5	3.7	158.6	1,612	1,693
June	99.5	99.6	104.5	95	137.1	26.1	227.7	189.0	182.5	901.4	3.9	144.4	1,484	1,729
July	100.1	100.2	104.7	89	138.5	26.3	233.2	191.7	184.7	976.5	4.2	131.6	1,563	1,916
Aug.	99.0	99.0	104.9	92	139.3	26.9	241.4	193.5	185.5	1008.8	4.3	136.7	1,487	1,858
Sept.	99.8	99.6	106.0	130	140.5	26.6	243.0 p	195.0 p	185.9	1040.1	4.5	137.4	1,583	1,788
Oct.			105 p	91 p	142.5	25.9	252.3 p	197.4 p	187.0	1088.5	4.7	126.2	1,740 p	1,946 p
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	−0.5	−0.6	+1.4	+14.1	+3.0		+7.2	+3.2	+2.7	+14.9		−7.9	+6††	+7††
on a year earlier	−8.1	−9.4	−5.6	−2.9	+26.4		+13.9	+22.9	+26.7	+65.6		−56.0	+13	+2½

p Provisional • After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100
ø Average of 11 months e Figure is estimate •• Figure is projection †† Average latest 3 months on average previous 5 months

Retailers' stocks in September

Based on the non-seasonally adjusted data of Table 1, the level of stocks at book value in September was 17 per cent higher than a year ago, but at constant prices it was 4 per cent lower.

The estimates of value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices and seasonally adjusted (Table 2) suggest a comparatively large increase in stock levels in September. Some of this increase probably reflects continued re-stocking following the substantial fall in April.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half	* five week period
the final digit shown	• fifty-three week
p provisional	period

TABLE 1 Level of retailers' stocks

Index numbers (end 1971 = 100) *and percentage increase on a year earlier* (At cost at end of month)

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
At book values:												
1971	89	91	94	95	95	97	95	95	98	106	110	100
1972	96	98	101	102	102	104	101	102	104	113	119	106
1973	103	106	111	111	111	115	115	116	121	131	140	129
1974	126	127	133	137	142	143	143	142	148	161	171	154
1975	148	151	159	155	160	163	162	163	173			
1972	7	8	8	6	7	8	7	7	7	7	8	6
1973	7	8	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1974	—	—	—	24	28	24	24	22	23	22	22	20
1975	18	19	20	13	13	14	14	14	17			
At constant (1970) prices:												
1971	95	97	99	99	98	99	96	96	99	107	111	100
1972	95	97	99	100	100	102	98	98	100	107	112	99
1973	96	99	103	108	111	114	112	112	116	124	131	120
1974	113	112	116	117	118	118	116	114	116	124	129	115
1975	108	109	112	107	109	109	108	107	112			
1972	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	2	1	—	1	−1
1973	1	2	4	9	11	13	15	14	17	16	17	20
1974	18	14	13	8	6	3	3	1	—	—	−1	−3
1975	−5	−3	−4	−8	−8	−7	−7	−6	−4			

1 The book value of retailers' stocks in the United Kingdom at end of December 1971 was £1,860 million.

2 With the introduction of VAT, the book values are being valued exclusive of this tax. There is, therefore, a discontinuity in the series in 1973 between March and April. For the year up to March, the usual comparisons with a year earlier for the book values series have not been given. As the basis of valuation is now comparable with that of a year earlier these percentages changes have been re-introduced. The estimates at constant prices take account of this method of valuation, and are on a consistent basis throughout.

3 The statistics given in Table 2 were introduced in an article in the issue of 28 March 1975.

4 Long-run series back to 1966 for both Table 1 and Table 2 were included in the article in the issue of 26 September 1975.

TABLE 2 Value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices

Seasonally adjusted £ million

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1971	−14	−1	−17	2	−18	16	−8	4	12	18	−8	4
1972	−9	3	−12	9	4	20	−16	12	−12	8	8	−26
1973	26	16	9	88	55	42	18	8	21	5	23	23
1974	−7	−54	2	14	25	−12	18	−29	−3	−5	1	−18
1975	−27	−24	−6	−83	35	−4	19	—	41			

See footnote 2 to Table 1.

Time Rates of Wages and Hours of Work

A volume of tables giving particulars of the minimum, or standard, time rates of wages for the more important industries and occupations, and of the normal weekly hours for which these rates are payable. The details given relate to the position as at April 1, 1974, but any later changes known to have come into operation are shown.

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HMSO BOOKS

New inquiry into the retailing trades for 1976

The first of a new series of annual sample inquiries into the retailing trades in Great Britain in respect of their business carried out in 1976 will be conducted in the following year by the Business Statistics Office (BSO) on behalf of the Department of Trade and other Government Departments.

Individual letters to businesses selected for the inquiry are being sent out shortly to give them advance notice of the questions they will be asked about their trading in the coming year. This will enable them to make any necessary arrangements in their record keeping. Letters explaining the inquiry are also being sent to trade associations.

The inquiry will provide statistics needed by both Government and outside users. In particular the Government needs information on stocks, capital expenditure and sales of each type of commodity for use in compiling the national accounts. Outside users are interested in sales of individual commodities by various different kinds of business.

The inquiry will be the first of a new system of annual, sample inquiries into retailing which will replace the existing system of statistics based on complex, infrequent censuses. The new system is the result of a wide ranging review of the needs for statistics in retailing and the best way to meet them, which has taken place over the past two years or so. Views of interested individuals and organisations outside Government were widely canvassed, and there was general agreement on the broad proposals. The new scheme will lead to the timely provision of information with a minimum burden on businesses, particularly the smaller ones, and an economical use of official resources.

The inquiry will be based on the central register of business currently being developed by the BSO from the VAT records. The availability of the register has enabled a scientific sample to be designed in which less than 30,000 businesses out of a total of some 300,000 within scope will be asked to complete returns.

The larger businesses will be asked about their turnover (broken-down by commodity), capital expenditure, stocks, purchases for resale, employment, credit granted, credit sales, debt outstanding and payments of value added tax. Turnover for England, Scotland and Wales will be asked for separately. A simpler form will be sent to the 11,000 or so smaller businesses selected in the sample.

It is hoped that provisional results of the inquiry will become available by the end of 1977.

Notes

The inquiry is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade under the Statistics of Trade Act 1947.

The existing system of annual and periodic inquiries into retailing is based on the Census of Distribution. Full Censuses were held in 1950, 1961 and 1971 and sample censuses in 1957 and 1966. Current annual inquiries collect information on capital expenditure and stocks and, from the large retailers, certain commodity information.

A central register is being developed by the Business Statistics Office for use in statistical inquiries addressed to businesses. The register is based on certain information from VAT records made available for statistical purposes by HM Customs and Excise under the provisions of the Finance Act 1973.

Further details about the inquiry appear in the article on 'Developments in the Statistics of the Distributive Trades', published in the November issue of *Statistical News*.

Index of retail sales in Northern Ireland in September

The seasonally adjusted index of retail sales in Northern Ireland for September was 208 (1965 = 100), 17 per cent more than in September 1974. In the third quarter of 1975 sales also increased by 17 per cent compared with the third quarter of 1974.

After allowing for price changes, the total volume of sales in September showed a decrease of 7 per cent compared with the corresponding period last year.

The seasonally adjusted index numbers of the value of sales in September and the third quarter of 1975 and percentage increases on a year earlier for the main groups of traders are shown below. More detailed information can be obtained from the Department of Commerce, Index of Retail Sales, 21 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BZ (tel. Belfast (0232) 28081, ext. 140).

		September 1975		3rd quarter 1975	
Sales by:	Sales in 1965 – £m	Seasonally adjusted value index numbers 1965 = 100	Percentage increases	Seasonally adjusted value index numbers 1965 = 100	Percentage increases
All kinds of business	219	208	17	217	17
Food shops	97	225	16	233	18
Non-food shops	122	195	17	204	18
Of which:					
Clothing and footwear shops	36	178	10	196	15
Durable goods shops	21	173	8	205	14
Miscellaneous non-food shops	43	228	24	227	21
Department and general stores	22	173	20	169	18

New companies incorporated in Northern Ireland during October

During October 59 private companies with a total nominal capital of £1,009,700 were incorporated in Northern Ireland.

During the period January-October 453 companies with a total nominal capital of £13,168,097 were incorporated as compared with 473 companies with a total nominal capital of £7,776,650 incorporated in the same period in 1974.

The following private company has been deleted from the report on new companies registered in June 1975:

Larsen Associates Ltd., with a nominal capital of £50,000.

The following private company has been deleted from the monthly report for September 1975:

Fortrea Ltd., with a nominal capital of £500.

Regional selective assistance

The table below shows on a regional basis, the applications received and offers made under Section 7 of the Industry Act for the month indicated.

	Applications received	Offers made	
	No.	No.	Value (£000)
Scotland	18	18	3,753
Wales	23	5	258
Northern	21	12	538
North West	14	26	585
Yorks/Humberside	8	11	481
South West	2	1	1
East Midlands	2	7	985
West Midlands	—	—	—
Total	88	80	6,601

Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 21 November 1975.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Review No. 3 (29th Year)	BR/E 38319/22/11/80	9	18 November	Data Film Distributors Ltd.	National Coal Board
Inserts	BR/E 38325/22/11/80	116	21 November	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Film and General Productions Ltd.
Movietone News 2424	BR/E 38139/22/11/80	8	21 November	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			COMMUNITY		
Les Valseuses (Making It)	EC 38321/22/11/80	118	20 November	Connoisseur Films Ltd.	Capac, Uranus Productions and Prodis, Paris
Innocents With Dirty Hands	EC 38324/22/11/80	125	21 November	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Films La Boetie, Paris, Terra-Filmkunst GmbH, West Berlin, and Jupiter Generale Cinematografica, Rome
			FOREIGN		
Hester Street	F 38320	86	18 November	Connoisseur Films Ltd.	Midwest Film Productions Inc., New York
The Enigma Of Kaspar Hauser	F 38322	110	20 November	Contemporary Films Ltd.	Cine-International Filmvertrieb, Munich
Farewell My Lovely	F 38323	95	21 November	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	EK Corporation, New York, and ITC, London

Amendment to the Register
The playing time of the film 'Royal Flash' (BR/E 38191/19/7/80), registered on 18 July 1975, has been amended to 102 minutes.

Sales in the carpet industry in September

The daily rate of manufacturers' sales by value in September 1975 at current prices was provisionally estimated to have been 7 per cent more than in September 1974, assuming 22 working days in September 1975 and 21 working days in September 1974. In the three months ended September 1975, the daily rate of manufacturers' sales was provisionally estimated to have been 10 per cent more than in the corresponding period 12 months ago, assuming 65 working days in both periods. The index numbers, which are of manufacturers' sales by value, have been adjusted for the length of the working month, but not for non-statutory holidays or other seasonal factors. The Wholesale Price Index of carpets is shown as a guide to the movement in prices.

1970 = 100

		Index of manufacturers' sales at current prices	Wholesale price index
1969		93	96.6
1970		100	100.0
1971		115	104.9
1972		135	111.7
1973		166	130.2
1974		179	153.1
1974	Quarter ended September	164	158.7
	Quarter ended December	202	161.5
1975	Quarter ended March	190	169.5
	Quarter ended June	194	171.2
	Quarter ended September	180	180.2*
1974	June	194	151.9
	July	151	157.0
	August	157	159.2
	September	184	160.2
1975	June	201	172.7
	July	167	179.2*
	August	176	179.6*
	September	198	181.7*

* Provisional.

Hosiery and other knitted goods – index of production

In the three months ended September 1975 the volume of production of hosiery and other knitted goods, seasonally adjusted (including knitted fabrics), was provisionally estimated to have been 6 per cent less than in the three months ended September 1974.

The seasonally adjusted figures for 1975 are based on the seasonal pattern up to the end of 1974 and may be subject to slight revision when the complete figures for 1975 have been incorporated. The actual figures allow for differences in the length of calendar months, but not for other seasonal variations.

In using the index numbers shown in the table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent months.

1970 = 100

1968	88
1969	98
1970	100
1971	99
1972	100
1973	103
1974	100

		Including warp knitting	
		Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1974	1st quarter	91	97
	2nd quarter	103	105
	3rd quarter	97	101
	4th quarter	108	96
1975	1st quarter	87	93
	2nd quarter p	95	96
	3rd quarter p	88	91
1974	January	77	91
	February	94	99
	March	101	101
	April	95	102
	May	99	101
	June	116	112
	July	88	100
	August	91	102
	September	113	102
	October	120	101
	November	124	104
	December	79	83
1975	January	78	92
	February	93	98
	March	90	89
	April p	89	95
	May p	92	93
	June p	103	100
	July p	78	88
	August p	81	91
	September p	104	93

p = provisional.

Footwear industry: orders, deliveries and stocks

[The figures for 1974 and 1975 given in the table below are different from those previously published because of revisions to the basic data and the updating of seasonal factors.]

In the three months ended August 1975 deliveries were estimated to be 14 per cent higher; on a seasonally adjusted pairage basis, than in the three months ended May 1975. Net new orders were 21 per cent higher than in the previous three months, while at the end of August orders on hand were 8 per cent up on the May 1975 level. The index of output in the three months ended August 1975 was 14 per cent higher than in the three months ended May 1975.

A detailed breakdown of manufacturers' deliveries by type of footwear in pairage and value terms, together with figures of exports, imports, consumers' expenditure, prices and employment is published in the Business Monitor Production series under the reference PQ 450.

The table below is compiled from the results of the monthly and quarterly inquiries which started at the beginning of 1971 and the KS inquiry which they superseded. Linkage factors spanning the fourth quarter 1970 and the first quarter 1971 have been calculated from matching samples of firms contributing to both the old and new inquiries and the KS results adjusted to provide a single, broadly comparable series. Since the linking factors cover only two quarters, however, the amended back data for 1966-70 should be interpreted with caution.

The index of output is calculated from the value of total sales and work done by firms classified to the footwear industry (Minimum List Heading 450 of the standard industrial classification). In using the index numbers it should be borne in mind that when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant price value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent months.

The data on pairage and value relate to complete footwear only sold by manufacturers classified to MLH 450 and to other industries (eg rubber) in the SIC.

Index of output: Orders on hand, net new orders, deliveries and stocks of complete footwear

Monthly averages or monthly totals

	Index of output 1970 = 100	Orders on hand (end period)			Net new orders			Deliveries			Stocks (end period)
		Million pairs		£ million	Million pairs		£ million	Million pairs		£ million	Million pairs
1966		33.6			..			16.4			
1967		37.8			16.5			16.1			
1968	113	41.6			17.3			17.0			
1969	108	34.6			15.9			16.5			
1970	100	38.9			16.6			16.2			
1971	108	32.5		55.7	15.7			16.2		23.8	19.4
1972	104	29.5		59.6	15.2		24.8	15.4		24.5	18.5
1973	108	46.2		85.2	17.1		30.5	15.7		28.4	16.5
1974	107	44.3		79.5	14.3		30.9	14.4		31.3	18.0
	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual
1974 1st quarter	101	51.1	53.3	87.5	15.2	14.1	29.7	13.6	13.4	28.9	13.6
2nd quarter	112	51.9	50.3	95.1	14.7	14.4	32.6	14.4	15.5	30.0	19.4
3rd quarter	110	40.1	49.1	73.7	11.0	14.1	26.8	14.9	14.5	33.9	16.4
4th quarter	105	44.3	50.0	79.5	16.2	14.8	34.6	14.8	14.5	32.7	18.0
1975 1st quarter	105	34.4	37.4	61.7	10.8	10.1	30.2	14.1	14.3	36.2	18.3
2nd quarter	95	36.6	36.5	78.4	13.1	12.8	36.1	12.4	13.1	30.5	23.1
1974 January	96	45.5	49.8	85.0	11.5	11.2	25.2	12.2	12.5	25.4	
February	96	49.7	53.1	86.6	17.0	16.3	28.8	12.8	13.0	27.2	
March	110	51.1	53.3	87.5	17.2	15.0	35.1	15.8	14.8	34.1	
April	112	55.2	54.0	92.4	19.6	16.4	36.5	15.5	15.7	31.6	
May	110	55.9	52.0	101.3	15.3	13.3	38.9	14.6	15.3	30.1	
June	114	51.9	50.3	95.1	9.3	13.7	22.3	13.2	15.4	28.5	
July	115	45.9	48.6	82.1	9.1	13.2	21.6	15.1	14.9	34.7	
August	109	41.4	47.4	74.9	9.6	13.6	24.3	14.1	14.7	31.4	
September	107	40.1	49.1	73.7	14.1	15.4	34.4	15.4	13.8	35.6	
October	103	39.3	47.8	77.8	16.4	12.6	41.9	17.2	14.0	37.9	
November	106	47.1	52.1	88.9	23.5	19.3	45.0	15.8	15.0	33.9	
December	105	44.3	50.0	79.5	8.7	12.4	16.8	11.5	14.5	26.3	
1975 January	111	37 2	42.2	69.9	6.9	6.6	26.4	14.0	14.4	36.0	
February	107	32.1	36.3	61.7	9.3	8.8	28.8	14.4	14.7	37.1	
March	99	34.4	37.4	61.7	16.3	14.9	35.4	14.0	13.8	35.4	
April	89	35.8	36.1	71.6	14.2	11.1	41.2	12.8	12.4	31.3	
May	91	39.1	36.6	83.7	14.8	13.1	39.9	11.5	12.6	27.8	
June	104	36.6	36.5	78.4	10.3	14.2	27.1	12.8	14.2	32.3	
July p	110	31.6	36.1	65.8	10.2	14.5	26.5	15.2	15.0	39.2	
August p	103	30.7	39.7	64.6	12.9	18.7	31.4	13.8	15.1	32.6	

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Sales by wholesale textile houses

Sales by wholesale textile houses in September showed an increase of 1 per cent on a year earlier, compared with an increase of 7 per cent in July and a decrease of 11 per cent in August.

The value of stocks at the end of September showed a decrease of 1 per cent compared with the same period last year.

TABLE 1 Total sales and stocks

Index numbers and *percentage increase compared with a year earlier* 1950 = 100

	Value of home sales		Value of stocks end period	
1966	110	*–3*	..	..
1967	104	*–5*	..	..
1968	108	*4*	..	..
1969	103	*–5*	..	..
1970	107	*4*	..	..
1971	115	*8*	..	..
1972	121	*5*	..	..
1973	134	*11*	..	..
1974	147	*9*	..	..
1973 1st quarter	120	*18*	184	*12*
2nd quarter	123	*11*	171	*17*
3rd quarter	130	*6*	173	*12*
4th quarter	163	*10*	204	*21*
1974 1st quarter	134	*12*	189	*3*
2nd quarter	131	*7*	202	*18*
3rd quarter	148	*13*	194	*12*
4th quarter	173	*6*	198	*–3*
1975 1st quarter	143	*7*	219	*16*
2nd quarter	135	*3*	197	*–2*
3rd quarter	146	*–1*	193	*–1*
1974 September	185	*16*	194	*12*
October	206	*12*	192	*18*
November	156	*1*	222	*10*
December	158	*5*	198	*–3*
1975 January	99	*18*	205	*15*
February	155	*15*	213	*16*
March	176	*–3*	219	*16*
April	149	*7*	195	*8*
May	128	*4*	213	*3*
June	130	*–2*	197	*–2*
July	125	*7*	210	*2*
August	126	*–11*	206	*—*
September	186	*1*	193	*–1*

TABLE 2 Analysis by department

Percentage increase compared with a year earlier

	Sales		Stocks‡
	Sept. 1975	Jan.-Sept. 1975	Sept. 1975
Women's knitted outerwear, blouses and skirts	22	4	–7
Women's coats, costumes, furs and raincoats	34	24	52
Women's underwear	–1	9	14
Women's hose and children's socks	–17	–15	–10
Women's millinery	27	8	14
Haberdashery, ribbons and wool	2	3	46
Children's wear	5	–6	–14
Men's and boys' shirts, pyjamas and outfitting	–28	–11	3
Gloves	–25	–22	12
Piece-goods and nets	–12	–2	–7
Household textiles	11	3	3
Floor coverings, furniture and hardware	–2	8	–9
Boots and shoes	10	1	–6
Total†	1	3	–1

† Including some items not included among the sub-headings.
‡ Values at cost.

Notes

These statistics are prepared by Textile Distributors' Association. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, the Textile Distributors' Association, 3 Berners Street, London W1P 4JP (tel. 01-580 2902).

Production in the cotton industry

Statistics issued by the Textile Statistics Bureau show that in the period January-September 1975 the amount of cloth woven was at the same level as in the same period last year. Production of single yarn decreased by 13 per cent and doubled yarn decreased by 9 per cent.

Production in the cotton industry

Annual totals and weekly averages

	Single yarn (†)		Doubled yarn		Woven cloth	
	Cotton yarn (‡)	Spun man-made yarns and mixture yarn, inc. waste	Cotton yarn	Other	Cotton	Man-made fibre and mixtures
	million kg.				million metres	
1968	171.2	67.5	49.9	52.0	668.2	507.3
1969	166.2	73.2	46.8	60.9	661.5	538.1
1970	158.7	77.4	43.2	57.3	627.6	484.3
1971	133.0	83.3	85.0		559.1	479.8
1972	121.4	81.7	75.4		513.0	469.8
1973	115.4	92.5	82.1		453.2	502.3
1974	101.3	87.7	74.7		409.5	505.3
1974 January*	1.6	1.4	1.1		6.6	6.8
February	1.7	1.5	1.2		7.1	7.9
March	2.2	2.0	1.6		8.6	10.6
April	2.0	1.9	1.6		8.0	10.5
May*	2.3	2.1	1.7		8.6	10.7
June	2.0	1.9	1.5		9.0	11.2
July*	1.7	1.4	1.3		5.4	7.8
August	2.2	2.0	1.6		8.6	10.8
September	1.8	1.5	1.3		6.8	9.9
October*	2.2	1.7	1.6		9.0	11.4
November	2.2	1.7	1.6		9.5	11.1
December	1.6	1.3	1.2		7.7	8.6
1975 January*	1.8	1.5	1.4		8.2	9.7
February	1.9	1.6	1.5		8.8	10.7
March	1.7	1.3	1.3		8.3	9.7
April*	1.8	1.6	1.2		7.7	9.4
May	2.1	1.7	1.5		8.1	10.0
June	1.7	1.6	1.3		8.7	10.1
July*	1.5	1.1	1.1		5.4	7.2
August	1.9	1.5	1.3		8.0	9.4
September	1.4	1.0	1.1		6.4	8.8

(†) Spun in the cotton industry. (‡) Including yarns wholly of cotton waste and mixture yarn of cotton and cotton waste. * Average of five weeks.

Output in the wool textile industry

The volume of production in the wool textile industry (as measured by the seasonally adjusted index of production) in September 1975 was 13 per cent lower than in September 1974. Statistics issued by the Wool Industry Bureau of Statistics show that in the period January-September 1975 woven fabrics (excluding blankets) were 12 per cent less than in the same period last year; deliveries of worsted yarn (excluding semi-worsted yarn) were 14 per cent lower. Production of wool and hair tops was 1 per cent less and that of man-made fibre top was 19 per cent less.

Output in the wool textile industry

	Consumption	Production			Deliveries			
	Raw wool (clean weight)	Tops		Woollen yarn (†)	Worsted yarn (§)	Woven fabrics (excluding blankets) (‡)		Blankets (†)
		Wool and hair	Man-made fibres			Woollen	Worsted	
	million kilos					million sq. metres		
1968	177.5	96.6	36.4	147.4	98.2	135.8	110.6	27.3
1969	174.5	92.0	42.2	142.2	100.5	130.1	109.2	26.9
1970	153.1	79.7	44.6	129.4	97.6	115.5	99.8	24.6
1971	141.2	66.2	36.6	130.7	93.0	101.9	83.9	28.5
1972	152.3	75.1	45.9	130.9	101.6	99.8	83.7	28.8
1973	136.6	62.2	55.9	135.2	100.0	104.0	88.4	30.6
1974	112.6	43.9	54.8	122.5	87.2	92.1	82.6	28.1
1973 1st quarter	40.7	19.9	13.3	36.8	27.8	25.8	24.5	8.6
2nd quarter	34.9	16.6	13.9	33.4	24.6	27.2	21.7	7.3
3rd quarter	29.2	13.0	13.0	29.8	21.8	24.1	19.9	6.7
4th quarter	31.8	12.9	15.6	35.2	25.7	27.2	22.2	8.1
1974 1st quarter	28.4	11.9	13.3	29.5	21.5	22.7	20.9	7.8
2nd quarter	33.6	12.8	15.5	36.7	23.5	25.8	21.2	7.2
3rd quarter	25.9	10.0	14.0	28.0	20.6	23.0	19.4	6.4
4th quarter	24.7	9.1	12.0	28.5	21.6	20.6	21.2	6.8
1975 1st quarter	27.3	11.2	12.8	29.4	20.4	17.7	20.7	7.6
2nd quarter	29.1	11.9	12.7	29.7	19.4	22.5	19.2	5.0
3rd quarter		11.4	9.2	24.6	15.7	19.8	17.1	5.7
1974 January	8.7	3.6	3.8	9.2	6.8	7.4	6.7	2.3
February	8.6	3.6	4.0	8.8	6.9	7.0	6.6	2.9
March	11.1	4.7	5.5	11.5	7.8	8.3	7.6	2.6
April	11.0	4.4	5.9	12.0	8.1	8.3	7.0	2.4
May	10.9	4.2	4.8	12.1	7.6	9.0	7.1	2.5
June	11.7	4.2	4.8	12.6	7.8	8.5	7.1	2.3
July	9.2	4.0	6.1	9.3	7.4	7.6	7.0	1.6
August	7.7	2.5	3.7	9.0	6.4	7.5	5.7	2.3
September	9.0	3.6	4.2	9.7	6.8	7.9	6.8	2.6
October	8.6	3.3	4.9	10.1	8.4	8.2	7.9	2.5
November	8.4	3.0	3.8	9.6	7.2	7.2	6.7	2.5
December	7.7	2.8	3.4	8.8	6.0	5.3	6.4	1.8
1975 January	8.9	3.6	4.3	9.9	7.0	6.1	7.3	2.3
February	9.1	3.8	4.2	9.5	6.4	5.6	6.6	2.9
March	9.3	3.9	4.4	10.1	7.0	6.1	6.8	2.5
April	9.6	4.1	4.5	9.8	6.9	7.0	6.5	1.8
May	9.3	3.5	3.7	9.9	6.0	7.2	6.3	1.7
June	10.2	4.3	4.5	10.0	6.4	8.2	6.4	1.6
July	9.0	4.5	3.8	8.0	5.1	6.7	6.4	1.9
August		2.7	2.2	7.5	4.7	5.9	4.5	1.7
September		4.2	3.2	9.1	5.9	7.2	6.2	2.1

(†) Estimated. (‡) Woven woollen fabrics include fabrics which are mainly woollen by weight of components and, similarly, woven worsted fabrics include fabrics which are mainly worsted by weight of components. (§) From January 1969 includes semi-worsted yarn: previously yarn of this type was not separately distinguished and the small quantities involved were divided between the woollen and worsted yarn headings. In September deliveries of semi-worsted yarn were 0.7 million kilos.

Exports of wool textile products

	Total	Wool tops		Yarns		Woven fabrics (‡)		Other wool textile products (†)
	£m	£m	Mn kilos	£m	Mn kilos	£m	Mn sq. m	£m
1968	114.80	23.94	25.44	20.44	14.34	66.14	69.42	4.28
1969	125.41	26.55	26.01	23.32	16.08	71.08	69.46	4.45
1970	117.25	20.38	21.08	23.37	15.85	70.00	62.51	3.50
1971	106.82	16.28	18.66	23.28	15.88	62.57	54.30	4.70
1972	118.49	19.80	20.51	27.28	18.13	66.48	56.32	4.93
1973	172.32	38.06	21.36	36.95	18.28	91.08	60.39	6.24
1974	180.44	26.15	16.15	41.56	15.56	105.84	52.80	6.89
1972 1st quarter	24.72	4.00	4.71	6.06	4.22	13.66	12.14	1.00
2nd quarter	31.35	5.24	5.84	7.61	5.28	17.27	14.41	1.23
3rd quarter	26.41	3.96	4.03	5.81	3.79	15.53	13.27	1.12
4th quarter	36.01	6.59	5.93	7.81	4.84	20.03	16.51	1.59
1973 1st quarter	37.85	9.38	6.31	8.97	5.10	18.25	14.26	1.25
2nd quarter	46.56	11.04	8.10	9.53	4.88	24.48	16.57	1.51
3rd quarter	43.93	9.36	2.81	9.09	4.20	23.89	15.50	1.59
4th quarter	43.99	8.28	4.14	9.36	4.11	24.47	14.05	1.88
1974 1st quarter	45.05	8.55	..	10.47	4.20	24.44	13.50	1.58
2nd quarter	51.23	7.82	..	12.08	4.52	29.52	14.63	1.81
3rd quarter	42.27	4.86	..	9.56	3.43	26.23	12.84	1.62
4th quarter	41.90	4.92	..	9.45	3.41	25.66	11.84	1.88
1975 1st quarter	36.93	5.19	4.04	8.33	3.07	21.79	10.43	1.62
2nd quarter	42.17	6.97	3.30	9.36	3.54	24.27	10.77	1.57
3rd quarter	41.80	7.98	4.47	8.66	3.17	23.76	11.86	1.40

(†) Wool or other animal hair, carded or combed; felts, wholly or partly of wool; blankets: travelling rugs; woollen and worsted fents; and other made-up textile articles, not individually specified in the Export List, of sheeps' or lambs' wool of fine animal hair.

Other commodities of, or containing, wool or animal hair not included in the above table; sheeps' or lambs' wool and fine or coarse animal hair not carded or combed; noils, rags and other waste; carpets; garments; smallwares; knitted or crocheted fabrics; woven fabrics predominantly of man-made fibres containing sheeps' or lambs' wool or fine animal hair.

(‡) Excluding mechanical cloths from January 1970.

UK trade by air

In the first half of this year the proportion of exports in value terms despatched by air fell 1 per cent from the level of the previous half year to 15¼ per cent. This was the second consecutive half year in which the proportion of exports fell following a rising trend over the previous decade. At £1,470 million the value of exports by air was only 2 per cent more than in the second half of 1974 while total exports increased in value over the same period by 9 per cent to £9,475 million. Rapidly rising costs and consequently higher freight charges, while affecting all forms of transportation, greatly increased the price differential between air freight and land/sea freight. This, combined with a probably more economy minded market contributed to the falling proportion of exports shipped by air. Imports by air at £1,518 million for the first half of 1975 rose in value by 4 per cent over the previous half year accounting for 13 per cent of total imports, 1 per cent higher than in the previous half year. Between the same periods there was a fall of 1 per cent in the value of total imports. While the slow growth in imports by air could be attributed to broadly the same causes as for exports, the fall in the value of total imports, to £11,621 million, reflected in large measure, a reduction in imports of oil in the first six months of this year. Excluding fuels the value of imports rose by 1 per cent.

The figures for exports and imports must certainly imply a reduction in the first half of 1975 in the tonnage freighted by air. There was, however, an increase in air freight space available in this period.

Table 2 shows the commodity distribution of exports. Non-electrical machinery remained the division with the greatest value exported by air (as it is the largest division in total exports). It accounted for 25 per cent of all air exports in the first half of 1975 against 22 per cent for exports as a whole. Air exports of non-electrical machinery were valued at £369 million, 8 per cent more than in the second half of 1974 but since total exports of this commodity group at £2,046 million were 24 per cent higher than in the last half of 1974, the proportion exported by air fell over the period by 3 per cent. Non-metallic mineral manufactures, most of which is diamonds, continued to have the highest proportion shipped by air, 50 per cent for the first half of this year, although at £243 million this was 5 per cent down on the previous half year. Following last year's marked rise in the values of chemical elements and compounds exported and noticeable fall in the proportion sent by air, the value in total for the first half of 1975 was 22 per cent down on the value for the previous half year while the proportion sent by air rose, albeit slightly, to 7 per cent. Most other major commodities showed a decline in the proportion sent by air, the exceptions being electrical machinery and medicinal and pharmaceutical products both of which maintained their proportion exported by air. Shipments of electrical machinery totalling £217 million were sent by air freight during the first six months of this year, representing 29 per cent of total exports of the commodity and 15 per cent of all air exports. In comparison exports of electrical machinery accounted for only 8 per cent of the value of all exports. Exports of non-ferrous metals and clothing declined markedly during the first half of 1975 and the proportion sent by air fell to 15 per cent and 38 per cent, respectively, in both cases 5 per cent lower than in the second half of 1974.

Table 3 shows the commodity distribution of imports. Imports by air of non-metallic mineral manufactures increased in the first half of this year by 11 per cent to £363 million and accounted for 73 per cent of all imports of the commodity group, an increase of 4 per cent over the previous half year. Whilst imports of non-ferrous metals fell by 18 per cent in the first half of 1975, the proportion arriving by air nearly doubled to 15 per cent, the value, £63 million being 61 per cent higher than in the latter half of 1974. Amongst the major commodities there was little change in the proportion imported by air. After non-metallic mineral manufactures which accounted for 24 per cent of the value of air imports, non-electrical machinery was the next highest valued category of air imports with £347 million, 31 per cent of all imports of the commodity. Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and electrical machinery both showed only a minimal decline in their high proportions arriving by air. This was in contrast to exports where the proportions shipped by air were both smaller and declined more rapidly in the first half of this year.

TABLE 1 Value of trade compared with total trade

Not seasonally adjusted

Year	Exports			Imports		
	Total £m fob	By air £m fob	Per cent of total exports	Total £m cif	By air £m cif	Per cent of total imports
1970	8,061.1	1,095.1	13.6	9,036.8	1,220.2	13.5
1971	9,181.4	1,304.1	14.2	9,821.1	1,335.4	13.6
1972	9,745.8	1,539.4	15.8	11,138.3	1,584.9	14.2
1973	12,454.3	2,110.9	16.9	15,839.8	2,365.6	14.9
1974	16,494.3	2,811.7	17.0	23,116.7	2,919.5	12.6
1974 1st half	7,782.9	1,377.7	17.7	11,326.9	1,465.0	12.9
2nd half	8,711.4	1,434.0	16.5	11,789.8	1,454.6	12.3
1975 1st half	9,474.5	1,469.6	15.5	11,620.7	1,517.5	13.1

TABLE 1(a) Increase in value of United Kingdom trade (per cent on a year earlier)

Not seasonally adjusted

Year	Exports		Imports	
	Total	By air	Total	By air
1970	10	12	9	13
1971	14	19	9	9
1972	6	18	13	19
1973	28	37	42	49
1974	32	33	46	23
1974 1st half	32	45	55	37
2nd half	33	23	38	12
1975 1st half	22	7	3	4

TABLE 2 Commodity composition of exports

Not seasonally adjusted

Selected divisions	2nd half 1974			1st half 1975		
	Total £m fob	By air £m fob	Per cent of total exports	Total £m fob	By air £m fob	Per cent of total exports
00 Live animals (excluding zoo animals, dogs and cats)	26.6	16.8	63	19.0	8.7	46
21 Hides, skins and furskins, undressed	37.0	7.6	21	50.7	16.1	32
51 Chemical elements and compounds	400.9	22.0	5	311.7	21.0	7
54 Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	163.9	67.9	41	187.4	76.3	41
55 Essential oils and perfume materials, toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations	78.8	4.1	5	84.1	3.6	4
61 Leather, leather manufactures, not elsewhere specified and dressed furskins	45.2	14.6	32	46.5	15.2	33
62 Rubber manufacturers not elsewhere specified	88.4	4.2	5	107.1	4.2	4
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	361.6	33.4	9	339.6	28.1	8
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures, not elsewhere specified	501.0	254.7	51	490.9	243.0	50
68 Non-ferrous metals	310.9	61.8	20	282.1	42.2	15
69 Manufactures of metal not elsewhere specified	254.9	15.2	6	303.8	18.3	6
71 Machinery, other than electric	1,650.3	341.5	21	2,046.3	368.6	18
72 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances	620.2	179.2	29	755.2	216.9	29
73 Transport equipment	939.8	114.8	12	1,154.8	121.5	11
84 Clothing, knitted or crocheted articles, including elastic or rubberised fabric and articles of fur	135.0	57.7	43	107.2	40.9	38
85 Footwear, gaiters, and the like	26.5	4.6	17	23.7	3.3	14
86 Professional, scientific and controlling instruments, photographic and optical goods, watches and clocks	224.9	76.4	34	254.8	82.1	32
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles, not elsewhere specified	368.2	110.9	30	362.0	110.1	30
All other goods	2,477.4	46.7	2	2,547.7	49.2	2
Total	8,711.4	1,434.0	16	9,474.5	1,469.6	16

TABLE 3 Commodity composition of imports

Not seasonally adjusted

Selected divisions		2nd half 1974 Total £m cif	2nd half 1974 By air £m cif	2nd half 1974 Per cent of total imports	1st half 1975 Total £m cif	1st half 1975 By air £m cif	1st half 1975 Per cent of total imports
00	Live animals (excluding zoo animals, dogs and cats)	40.8	7.3	18	42.7	3.4	8
21	Hides, skins and furskins, undressed	53.4	22.3	42	46.4	15.0	32
28	Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	291.4	62.8	22	263.0	41.1	16
51	Chemical elements and compounds	385.1	33.3	9	332.6	29.5	9
54	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	47.4	23.3	49	45.0	20.5	46
55	Essential oils and perfume materials, toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations	37.4	5.0	13	34.2	5.2	15
61	Leather, leather manufactures, not elsewhere specified and dressed furskins	29.3	4.4	15	34.3	5.0	15
65	Textile yarn, fabrics, made up articles and related products	350.7	35.5	10	332.7	35.0	11
66	Non-metallic mineral manufactures not elsewhere specified	474.7	327.9	69	497.4	363.1	73
68	Non-ferrous metals	499.9	38.8	8	410.1	62.5	15
69	Manufactures of metal, not elsewhere specified	146.5	20.2	14	160.7	18.6	12
71	Machinery other than electric	1,011.5	334.1	33	1,128.9	346.7	31
72	Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances	483.3	202.3	42	497.7	206.2	41
73	Transport equipment	442.4	33.9	8	556.1	38.7	7
84	Clothing, knitted or crocheted articles, including elastic or rubberised fabric and articles of fur	194.7	44.0	23	236.1	55.6	24
85	Footwear, gaiters and the like	50.8	6.5	13	69.2	6.0	9
86	Professional, scientific and controlling instruments, photographic and optical goods, watches and clocks	197.6	92.9	47	216.5	99.7	46
89	Miscellaneous manufactured articles, not elsewhere specified	311.2	99.4	32	306.8	103.2	34
	All other goods	6,741.9	60.8	1	6,410.4	62.7	1
	Total	11,789.8	1,454.6	12	11,620.7	1,517.5	13

The distribution of air trade by area is outlined in Table 4. The EEC remained the largest market for UK exports delivered by air, taking 30 per cent of all air exports, the same proportion as in the second half of 1974. The shares taken by each of the other areas within the developed bloc fell (in line with the depressed picture for total exports to these markets). The oil exporting countries continued as the UK's fastest growing export market in the first half of 1975. Air shipments to this market rose by 53 per cent to account for 9½ per cent of all air exports during this period, 3 per cent more than in the second half of 1974.

North America remained the largest source of imports by air accounting for 30 per cent of the all air imports (a slightly lower proportion than in the second half of 1974). One quarter of all imports by air over the period arrived from the EEC. The rest of Western Europe, whose share of air imports fell by 2 per cent in the first half of this year, provided the only notable fall among the major areas. Imports by air from the other developed countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan) increased during the first half of 1975 by 23 per cent to £146 million and accounted for 9½ per cent of all air imports.

Greater detail, by countries, is shown in Table 5. The USA continued to be the largest individual recipient of UK exports delivered by air, receiving goods to the value of £237 million in the first six months of 1975. Deliveries by air to the USA fell 9 per cent in the first six months of this year (as did total exports to this market). The country with the largest proportion of exports delivered by air was Switzerland where traditionally the entrepôt trade in diamonds has a marked effect. Due partly to some slackening of this trade during 1975, whilst exports to Switzerland declined in value by 3 per cent, exports by air fell by 14 per cent to £131 million, accounting for 44 per cent of total exports against 50 per cent for the previous half year. The proportion of exports sent by air to most European countries declined in the first half of 1975. This reflected a substantial drop in the tonnage of deliveries in an area near to the UK where

TABLE 4 Exports to, and imports from, various areas by air

Not seasonally adjusted

	Exports 2nd half 1974 £m fob	Exports 1st half 1975 £m fob	Exports Per cent of total exports	Imports 2nd half 1974 £m cif	Imports 1st half 1975 £m cif	Imports Per cent of total imports
EEC	431.7	440.6	30.0	366.7	389.7	25.7
Rest of Western Europe	256.1	242.5	16.5	254.2	238.6	15.7
North America	315.9	292.3	19.9	457.0	459.1	30.3
Other Developed Countries	128.2	122.8	8.4	118.8	145.5	9.6
Oil Exporting Countries	91.8	140.3	9.5	20.3	17.0	1.1
Other Developing Countries	187.4	212.2	14.4	150.2	163.8	10.8
Centrally Planned Economies	22.9	18.9	1.3	87.4	103.8	6.8
Total	1,434.0	1,469.6	100	1,454.6	1,517.5	100

TABLE 5 Exports to, and imports from, selected countries

Not seasonally adjusted

Selected countries	Exports 2nd half 1974 Total £m fob	Exports 2nd half 1974 By air £m fob	Exports 2nd half 1974 Per cent of total exports	Exports 1st half 1975 Total £m fob	Exports 1st half 1975 By air £m fob	Exports 1st half 1975 Per cent of total exports	Imports 2nd half 1974 Total £m cif	Imports 2nd half 1974 By air £m cif	Imports 2nd half 1974 Per cent of total imports	Imports 1st half 1975 Total £m cif	Imports 1st half 1975 By air £m cif	Imports 1st half 1975 Per cent of total imports
Western Germany	531.3	95.7	18.0	601.0	99.2	16.5	981.9	120.4	12.3	985.7	112.2	11.4
Netherlands	530.0	41.6	7.8	536.9	39.8	7.4	890.5	38.3	4.3	865.4	40.8	4.7
Belgium and Luxembourg	425.5	107.3	25.2	431.4	106.5	24.7	396.9	40.7	10.3	472.4	53.5	11.3
France	475.6	93.0	19.6	548.5	107.2	19.5	695.7	103.4	14.9	800.9	118.7	14.8
Italy	249.6	42.2	16.9	264.2	41.6	15.7	359.1	33.2	9.2	375.4	33.0	8.8
Sweden	385.2	30.3	7.9	414.6	29.4	7.1	483.0	16.2	3.4	458.0	17.0	3.7
Denmark	210.3	12.1	5.8	199.7	11.6	5.8	297.5	7.2	2.4	302.9	8.3	2.7
Switzerland	306.3	151.9	49.6	298.4	131.3	44.0	331.1	184.1	55.6	317.7	171.9	54.1
Portugal	83.9	9.7	11.6	89.1	7.8	8.8	123.7	27.3	22.1	102.4	23.8	23.2
Austria	76.7	9.8	12.8	81.6	8.8	10.8	105.1	6.6	6.3	102.6	5.4	5.3
Spain	136.4	19.1	14.0	151.2	22.0	14.6	145.0	6.6	4.6	124.1	7.7	6.2
Irish Republic	418.2	39.8	9.5	425.7	34.6	8.1	443.5	23.5	5.3	413.9	23.3	5.6
United States of America	917.8	261.1	28.4	846.3	236.9	28.0	1,153.4	414.5	35.9	1,173.9	418.8	35.7
Canada	271.6	54.3	20.0	267.5	54.9	20.5	497.2	39.8	8.0	457.2	39.0	8.5
India	64.0	12.6	19.7	78.6	15.4	19.6	108.6	31.2	28.7	101.6	37.6	37.0
Australia	340.9	36.8	10.8	313.6	34.2	10.9	169.7	5.6	3.3	153.9	4.6	3.0
Republic of South Africa	285.0	29.6	10.4	335.3	33.1	9.9	241.5	80.9	33.5	260.3	108.8	41.8
Japan	151.4	54.7	36.1	154.2	47.6	30.9	285.1	31.4	11.0	320.8	31.4	9.8
Total	5,859.7	1,101.5	18.8	6,037.9	1,061.9	17.6	7,708.5	1,211.1	15.7	7,789.1	1,255.7	16.1
All other countries	2,851.7	332.4	11.7	3,436.6	407.7	11.9	4,081.3	243.5	6.0	3,831.5	261.8	6.8
Grand total	8,711.4	1,434.0	16.5	9,474.5	1,469.6	15.5	11,789.8	1,454.6	12.3	11,620.7	1,517.5	13.1

the advanages (mainly speed) of air freight are not so apparent. Exports by air to France held up however at 20 per cent of total exports to France, in the first half of this year, both air shipments and total exports being 15 per cent higher than in the previous half year. 25 per cent of exports to Belgium and Luxembourg were delivered by air, only slightly less than in the previous half-year while air shipments to West Germany were valued at £99 million, 16½ per cent of all UK exports to the country. This was 1½ per cent less than in the second half of 1974 due to total exports rising in value by 13 per cent while exports by air grew by only 4 per cent. Exports by air to Japan fell by 13 per cent to £48 million while total exports to the country grew by 2 per cent. Consequently the proportion sent by air fell by 5 per cent.

As with exports, the largest supplier of UK imports shipped by air was the USA supplying goods to the value of £419 million, 36 per cent of all imports from the USA (the same as in the previous half-year) and 28 per cent of total air imports (also the same as in the previous half year). More marked were the increases in the value of goods coming by air from India and South Africa. While imports from India fell by 6 per cent to £102 million in the first half of this year, the value arriving in the UK by air rose by 21 per cent to 37 per cent of total, 8 per cent higher than in the second half of 1974. Imports from South Africa delivered to the UK by air totalled £109 million, in the first half of 1975, 34 per cent higher than in the previous half-year (compared to a rise of 8 per cent in total imports from the source) and also showed an 8 per cent increase in the proportion sent by air to 42 per cent. Within Europe the situation remained failrly static with imports sent to the UK by air rising or falling in value at much the same level as imports from the countries as a whole. Despite a fall of 7 per cent in the value of imports arriving in the UK by air from Switzerland to £172 million, this accounted for 54 per cent of all imports from the country, only 2 per cent less than in the second half of 1974. West Germany, second only to the USA as a supplier of imports to the UK supplied 8½ per cent of total UK imports in the first half of 1975 but only 7 per cent of the value of imports arriving by air.

Note

The valuation of exports and imports in this article is on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis. While estimates for total trade are published on a Balance of Payments basis in the monthly trade article, the adjustments to that basis are not available for the analysis of trade by air. Complete newly-built aircraft flown in and out under their own power are included in the totals for all United Kingdom trade but are excluded from the figures of trade by air.

No allowance is made either in the totals of trade or in the figures of trade by air for the under recording of exports in 1969-71 and 1973-74. Imports by parcel post are included in total imports but are not available for inclusion in the figures of imports by air.

Exports by parcel post are included both in total exports and in exports by air.

Release dates of economic statistics to be published in December

This notice is issued by the Central Statistical Office on behalf of the Government Statistical Service and other organisations as a guide to the dates of publication of major economic series in December. The dates are those which Departments, or other organisations concerned, are aiming at, and would normally expect to meet. Exceptionally, there may be a delay resulting from unavoidable statistical problems of collection and compilation. Further inquiries about individual series should be addressed to the source named.

Publication date	Series	Method of release*	Source
December			
1 Mon.	Central Government borrowing requirement (Oct.)	Fin. Stats.	CSO Treasury
2 Tues.	United Kingdom official reserves (Nov.)	PN	HM Treasury
	Capital issues and redemptions (during month of Nov.)	PN	Bank of England
4 Thurs.	Provisional figures of vehicle production and estimates of new car registrations (Nov. prov.)	PN	Department of Industry
5 Fri.	Consolidated Fund and National Loans Fund (Nov.)	London Gazette	HM Treasury
8 Mon.	United Kingdom balance of payments (3rd qtr.)	PN	CSO Treasury
	Hire purchase and other instalment credit business (Oct.)	PN	Department of Industry
	Retail trade (Oct. – final)	PN	Department of Industry
	Wholesale price index numbers (Nov.)	PN	Department of Industry
10 Wed.	London clearing banks' monthly statement (mid-Oct.)	PN	CLCB
	UK banks' eligible liabilities, reserve assets, reserve ratios and special deposits (mid-Nov.)	PN	Bank of England
11 Thurs.	UK banking statistics (3rd qtr.)	Bulletin	Bank of England
	Money stock (3rd qtr.)	Bulletin	Bank of England
	Crude steel production (Nov.)	PN	BSC BISPA
12 Fri.	Building Societies' receipts and loans (Nov.)	PN	BSA
	Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures incorporating the import and export unit value and volume index numbers and the terms of trade (Nov.)	PN	Department of Trade CSO
	Retail prices index (Nov.)	PN	Department of Employment
	Company liquidity survey (3rd qtr.)	T and I	Department of Industry
15 Mon.	Retail trade (Nov. – prov.)	PN	Department of Industry
	Turnover of the catering trades (Oct.)	PN	Department of Industry
	Borrowing by local authorities (3rd qtr.)	PN	CSO
16 Tues.	Index of industrial production (Oct.)	PN	CSO
17 Wed.	Basic rates of wages and normal weekly hours (Nov.)	PN	Department of Employment
	Monthly index of average earnings (Oct.)	PN	Department of Employment
	Construction – output (3rd qtr.)	PN	Department of the Environment
18 Thurs.	Finished steel consumption and stock changes (3rd qrt. – final)	PN	Department of Industry
	Car and commercial vehicle production (Nov. – final)	PN	Department of Industry
19 Fri.	Gross domestic product (3rd qtr. – prov.)	PN	CSO
21 Sun.	National savings monthly progress report (Nov.)	PN	National Savings Committee
22 Mon.	UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-Nov.)	PN	Bank of England
	Sterling certificates of deposit (mid-Nov.)	PN	Bank of England
	London dollar certificates of deposit (mid-Nov.)	PN	Bank of England
23 Tues.	Unemployment (Dec. – prov.)	PN	Department of Employment
	Unfilled vacancies (Dec. – prov.)	PN	Department of Employment
	New vehicle registrations (Nov.)	PN	Department of the Environment
29 Mon.	National Food Survey report on consumption (3rd qtr.)	PN	MAFF
30 Tues.	Housing starts and completions (Nov. – prov.)	PN	Department of the Environment
	House renovation grants approved (Nov. – prov.)	PN	Department of the Environment
	Central Government borrowing requirement (Nov.)	Fin. Stats	CSO Treasury
31 Wed.	Unemployment (Nov.-final)	Gazette	Department of Employment
	Employment in production industries (Oct.)	Gazette	Department of Employment
	Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (Oct.)	Gazette	Department of Employment
	Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (Nov.)	Gazette	Department of Employment
	Energy tends	PN	Department of Energy
	Construction – new orders (Oct.)	PN	Department of the Environment
	Bricks and cement production (Nov.)	PN	Department of the Environment

* PN = Press Notice.

Motor vehicle output in October

Recorded car production in the four weeks to 25 October was 97,119 units (24,280 per week) 21 per cent below the October 1974 level. Production of commercial vehicles of 31,315 units (7,829 per week) was 11 per cent below the October 1974 level. Cumulative production of cars in 1975 to 25 October was 17 per cent below the 1974 level, while cumulative production of commercial vehicles was 3 per cent below.

(The summaries which follow are based on the seasonally adjusted figures in Table 2.)

Cars

Seasonally adjusted, October car production of 95 thousand units was 25 per cent below the 1974 monthly average. Production in the three months August to October was 10 per cent higher than that of

TABLE 1 Recorded production

Production figures of road motor vehicles cover complete vehicles, chassis with engines for delivery as such and un-assembled vehicles for export. Road tractors are included but battery operated road vehicles are excluded.

Production for export may differ from actual exports as recorded in the Overseas Trade Statistics because of differences in timing and coverage.

		Passenger cars (including taxis)				Commercial road vehicles			
	No. of weeks	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average
1967	52	988,273	563,740	1,552,013	29,846	245,692	139,414	385,106	7,406
1968	52	1,013,163	802,773	1,815,936	34,922	259,331	149,855	409,186	7,869
1969	53	892,758	824,315	1,717,073	32,398	272,998	192,778	465,776	8,788
1970	52	918,109	722,857	1,640,966	31,557	267,407	190,125	457,532	8,799
1971	52	1,027,462	714,478	1,741,940	33,499	268,278	187,928	456,206	8,773
1972	52	1,307,881	613,430	1,921,311	36,948	272,649	135,470	408,119	7,848
1973	52	1,142,216	605,105	1,747,321	33,602	257,574	159,049	416,623	8,012
1974	52	937,932	596,187	1,534,119	29,502	232,373	170,193	402,566	7,742
1975	52								
1974 1st quarter	13	237,232	150,688	387,920	29,840	52,641	36,845	89,486	6,884
2nd quarter	13	275,355	164,041	439,396	33,800	63,122	46,063	109,185	8,399
3rd quarter	13	185,497	121,121	306,618	23,586	50,233	39,800	90,033	6,926
4th quarter	13	239,848	160,337	400,185	30,783	66,377	47,485	113,862	8,759
1975 1st quarter	13	242,571	139,736	382,307	29,408	61,402	46,808	108,210	8,324
2nd quarter	13	145,107	142,664	287,771	22,136	49,650	48,435	98,085	7,545
3rd quarter	13	151,830	117,925	269,755	20,750	39,136	38,724	77,860	5,989
4th quarter	13								
1974 January	4	61,781	37,628	99,409	24,852	13,989	9,595	23,584	5,896
February	4	73,721	50,721	124,442	31,110	16,048	11,428	27,476	6,869
March	5	101,730	62,339	164,069	32,814	22,604	15,822	38,426	7,685
April	4	74,411	40,917	115,328	28,832	18,881	12,913	31,794	7,948
May	4	99,873	58,240	158,113	39,528	20,614	15,513	36,127	9,032
June	5	101,071	64,884	165,955	33,191	23,627	17,637	41,264	8,253
July	4	56,304	37,405	93,709	23,427	14,978	12,841	27,819	6,955
August	4	66,368	46,662	113,030	28,258	14,701	10,495	25,196	6,299
September	5	62,825	37,054	99,879	19,976	20,554	16,464	37,018	7,404
October	4	73,584	49,228	122,812	30,703	20,846	14,332	35,178	8,794
November	4	84,742	55,632	140,374	35,094	22,364	16,125	38,489	9,622
December	5	81,522	55,477	136,999	27,400	23,167	17,028	40,195	8,039
1975 January	4	79,301	46,278	125,579	31,395	19,997	14,429	34,426	8,606
February	4	84,826	43,032	127,858	31,964	19,669	15,619	35,288	8,822
March	5	78,444	50,426	128,870	25,774	21,736	16,760	38,496	7,699
April	4	57,260	48,895	106,155	26,539	16,866	14,418	31,284	7,821
May	4	35,750	36,423	72,173	18,043	15,879	16,070	31,949	7,987
June	5	52,097	57,346	109,443	21,888	16,905	17,947	34,852	6,970
July	4	39,303	32,345	71,648	17,912	10,995	12,480	23,475	5,869
August	4	40,219	38,525	78,744	19,686	10,117	10,271	20,388	5,097
September	5	72,308	47,055	119,363	23,873	18,024	15,973	33,997	6,799
October	4	60,873	36,246	97,119	24,280	14,963	16,352	31,315	7,829
November	4								
December	5								

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the preceding three months, but remained 18 per cent below the 1974 monthly average. Within the total, production for the home market in August to October was 23 per cent below the 1974 monthly average, while production for export was 11 per cent below.

Commercial vehicles

October production of 29.6 thousand units was 12 per cent below the 1974 monthly average, while average production in the three months August to October was 8 per cent below. Production for the home market in August to October was 21 per cent below the 1974 monthly average while production for export was 10 per cent higher.

TABLE 2 Production – seasonally adjusted

The seasonally adjusted series has been adjusted to exclude the effect of regularly recurring influences (eg holidays) but the figures still reflect the effect of factors that do not recur regularly (eg strikes).

Care should be taken not to interpret changes between one month and another as necessarily indicating the underlying trend. The averages in the latest three months and the previous three months give a more reliable guide to recent changes.

MONTHLY AVERAGE — Thousands

	Passenger cars			Commercial vehicles		
	For home market	For export	Total	For home market	For export	Total
1967	82	47	129	20.5	11.6	32.1
1968	84	67	151	21.6	12.5	34.1
1969	74	69	143	22.7	16.1	38.8
1970	77	60	137	22.3	15.8	38.1
1971	86	59	145	22.3	14.7	38.0
1972	109	51	160	22.7	11.3	34.0
1973	95	50	145	21.5	13.2	34.7
1974	78	50	128	19.3	14.2	33.5
1975						
1974 1st quarter	69	42	111	16.6	11.7	28.3
2nd quarter	85	47	132	19.6	14.2	33.8
3rd quarter	83	55	138	21.3	16.2	37.5
4th quarter	76	54	130	19.9	14.7	34.6
1975 1st quarter	76	43	119	20.1	15.5	35.6
2nd quarter	46	43	89	15.8	15.0	30.8
3rd quarter	62	51	113	16.2	15.7	31.9
4th quarter						
1974 January	56	44	100	15.2	12.3	27.5
February	70	36	106	16.2	11.0	27.2
March	80	46	126	18.5	11.7	30.2
April	79	32	111	19.9	13.8	33.7
May	93	56	149	21.3	14.5	35.8
June	81	55	136	17.7	14.2	31.9
July	97	66	163	22.0	16.7	38.7
August	88	61	149	22.1	16.8	38.9
September	64	37	101	19.8	15.1	34.9
October	72	49	121	18.8	14.0	32.8
November	82	60	142	20.1	15.3	35.4
December	75	53	128	20.8	14.8	35.6
1975 January	78	53	131	21.7	17.4	39.1
February	85	36	121	20.2	15.8	36.0
March	65	40	105	18.4	13.4	31.8
April	61	46	107	17.4	15.2	32.6
May	34	36	70	16.5	15.3	31.8
June	43	48	91	13.6	14.6	28.2
July	66	56	122	16.0	16.4	32.4
August	52	50	102	15.1	16.1	31.2
September	70	46	116	17.4	14.7	32.1
October	60	35	95	13.5	16.1	29.6
November						
December						
Average of:						
May-July 1975	48	47	95	15.4	15.4	30.8
Aug.-Oct. 1975	60	44	104	15.3	15.7	31.0
Percentage change	+26	−6	+10	N/C	+2	+1

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A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

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Air transport: trade by air (6M)	This week
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	21 Nov. 1975
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	17 Oct. 1975
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcies *see* Insolvencies	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	30 Jan. 1975
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	3 Oct. 1975
Catering trades turnover (M)	21 Nov. 1975
Census of production (A)	19 Dec. 1974
(amendment)	16 Jan. 1975
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	26 Sept. 1975
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Gt. Britain (M)	21 Nov. 1975
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Construction work overseas (A)	17 Oct. 1975
EEC economic indicators	14 Nov. 1975
Energy trends (M)	7 Nov. 1975
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	21 Nov. 1975
Film industry	
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overseas payments and earnings (A)	8 Aug. 1975
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Food:	
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household consumption (Q)	3 Oct. 1975
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industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	10 Oct. 1975
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Machine tools: sales and orders (M)	31 Oct. 1975
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Departmental organisations, etc.

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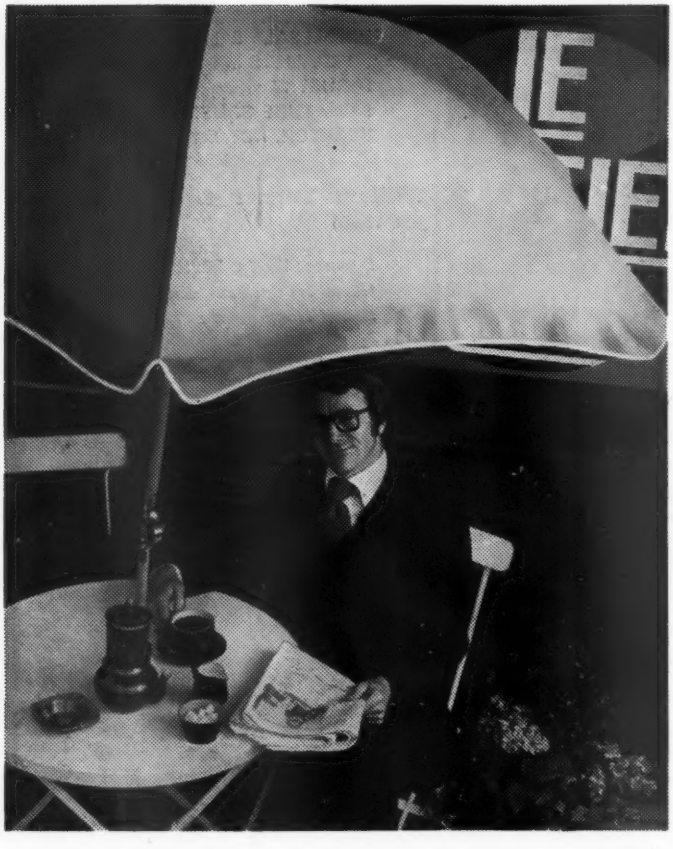

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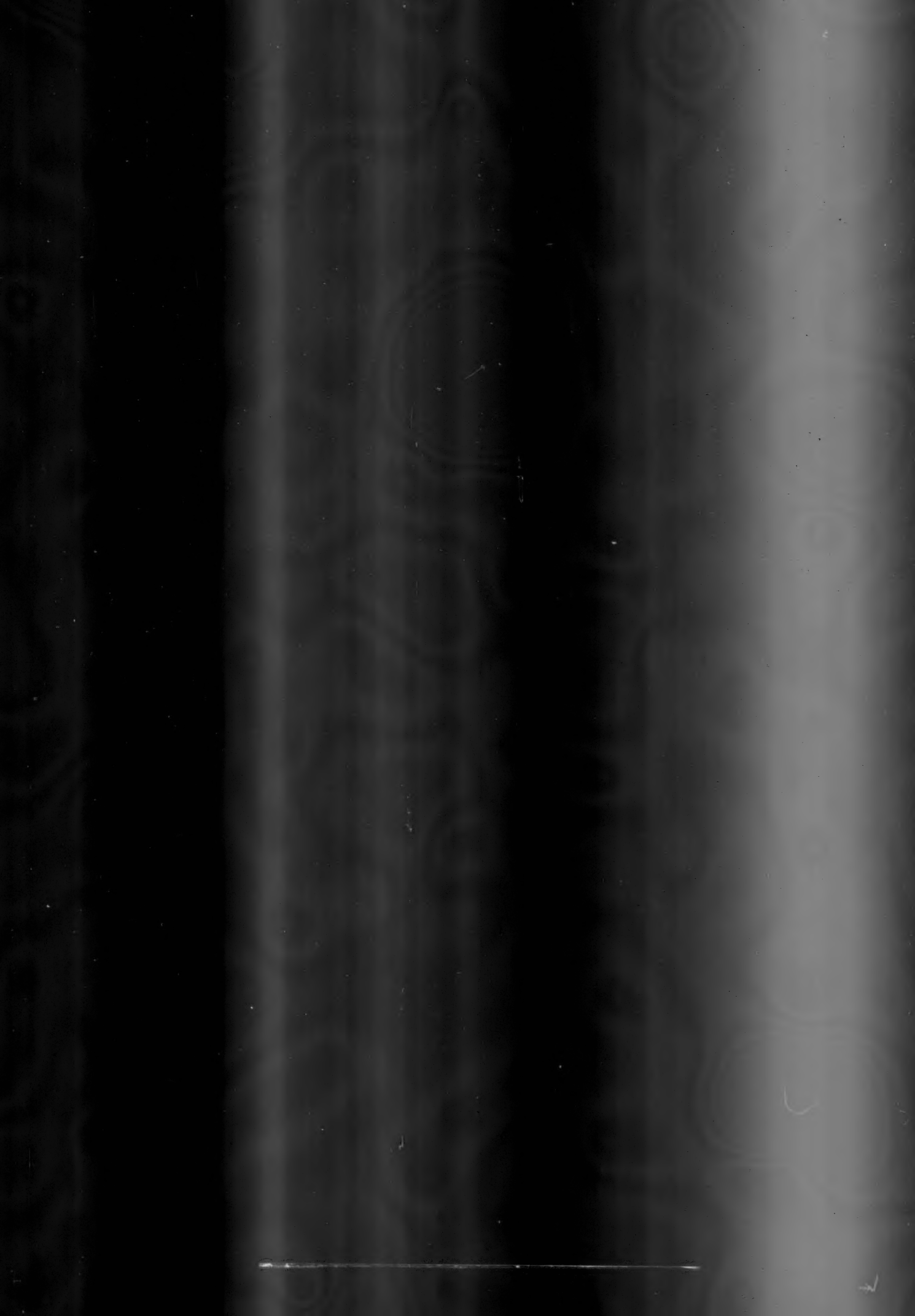
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